MARVEL TALES

AUG.
NO. 93

MARVEL COMIC

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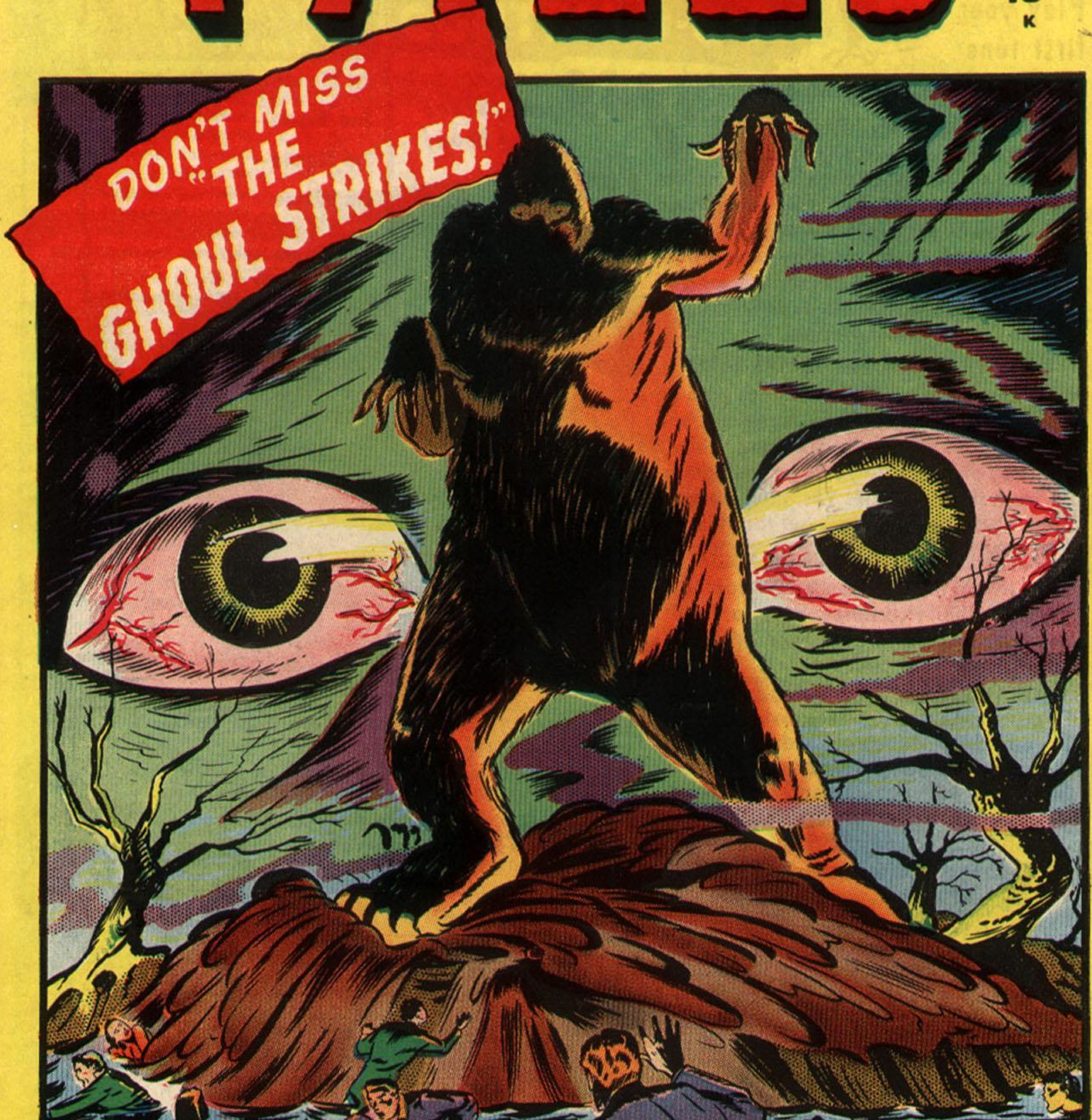
DON'T MISS "THE GHOUL STRIKES!"

TEX SMITH
The HARMONICA MAN
Says

"LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO WIN POPULARITY WITH THE HARMONICA!"

The very first day..! Play any song you can whistle, hum, or sing.

Simple, Easy, Lots of Fun!

TEX SMITH'S FAMOUS A-B-C METHOD

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Plus Fine 10-Hole HARMONICA FREE

Make This EASY 5-Minute Test!

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2nd Minute—learn the secret of blowing!

3rd Minute—learn the secret of drawing in!

4th Minute—learn the exclusive "Note Selector" method!

5th Minute—play your first song!

. . . actually as easy as this!

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Just think! You play hillbilly songs, popular tunes, semi-classics, waltzes, old hymns...almost at once! My complete A-B-C picture course will thrill you because it's so downright *easy*! I've taught thousands from 6 to 60 to play who never played before . . . and I can show *you* how! No drills, no exercises! No need for special musical talent or knowledge!

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In no time at all you'll be able to pick up the harmonica anywhere, anytime and surprise your friends by playing. They'll be proud of you. And you'll get real pleasure from this new skill! Yes, now do your share at parties, dances, get-togethers.

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10-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE:

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☐ Send C.O.D. I pay postman $1.69 plus postage.
☐ Enclosed is $1.69. I save postage.

Name______________________________

Address______________________________

City, Zone, State________________________

10-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE: If not completely satisfied, I'll return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

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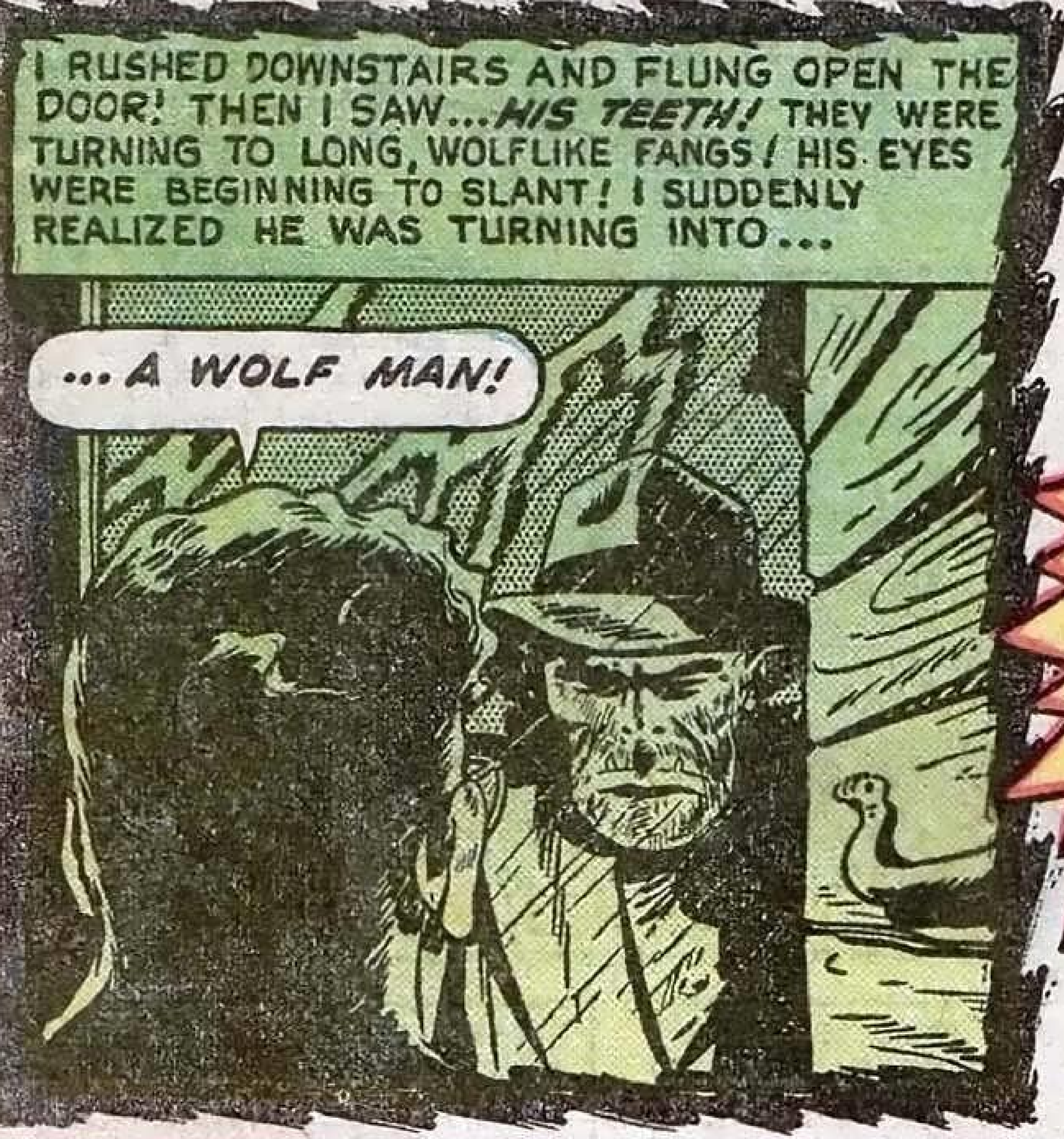
I RUSHED DOWNSTAIRS AND FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR! THEN I SAW... *HIS TEETH!* THEY WERE TURNING TO LONG, WOLFLIKE FANGS! HIS EYES WERE BEGINNING TO SLANT! I SUDDENLY REALIZED HE WAS TURNING INTO...
... A WOLF MAN!

THE SECRET OF "THE HAUNTED ROOM!"

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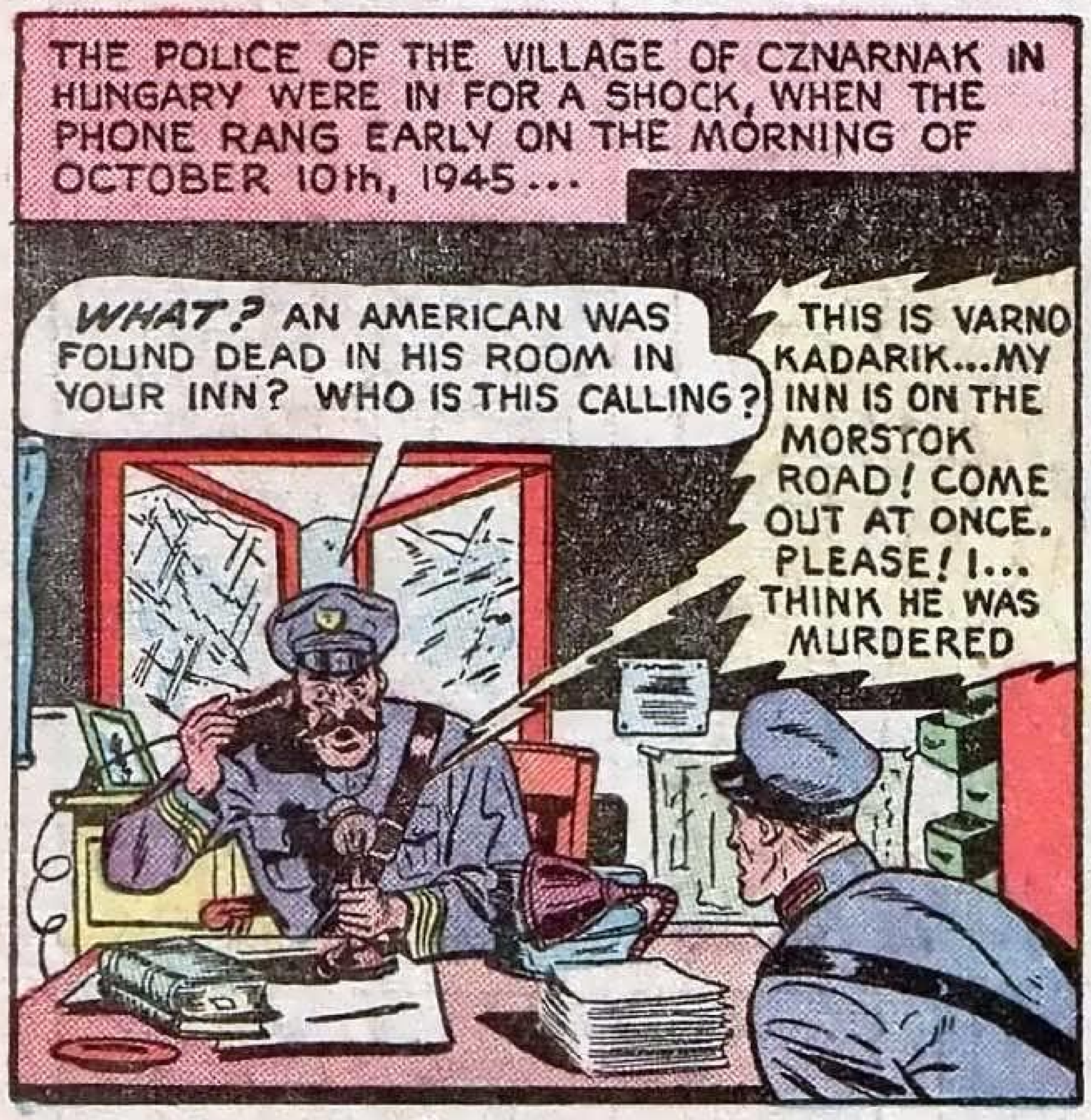
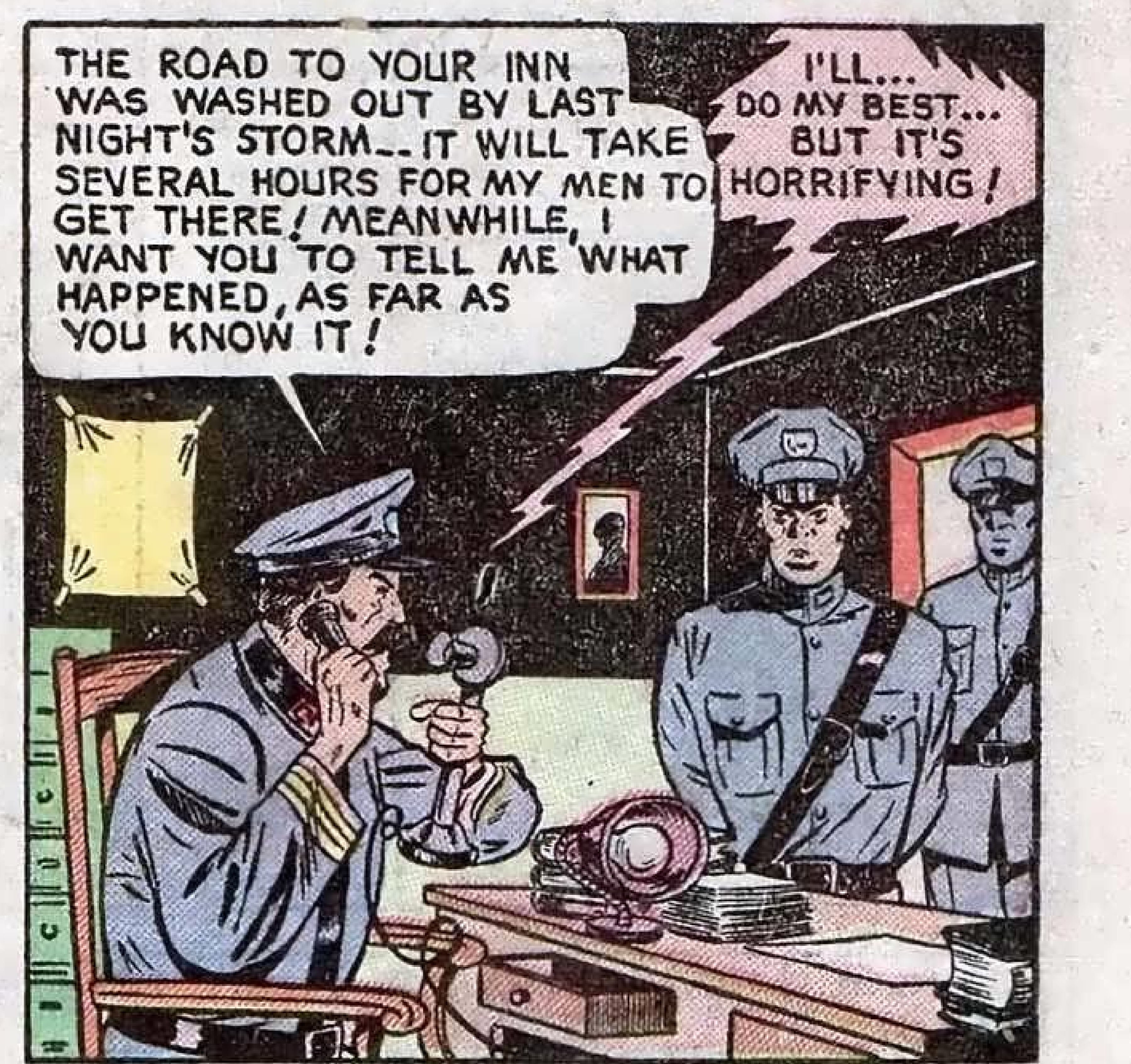
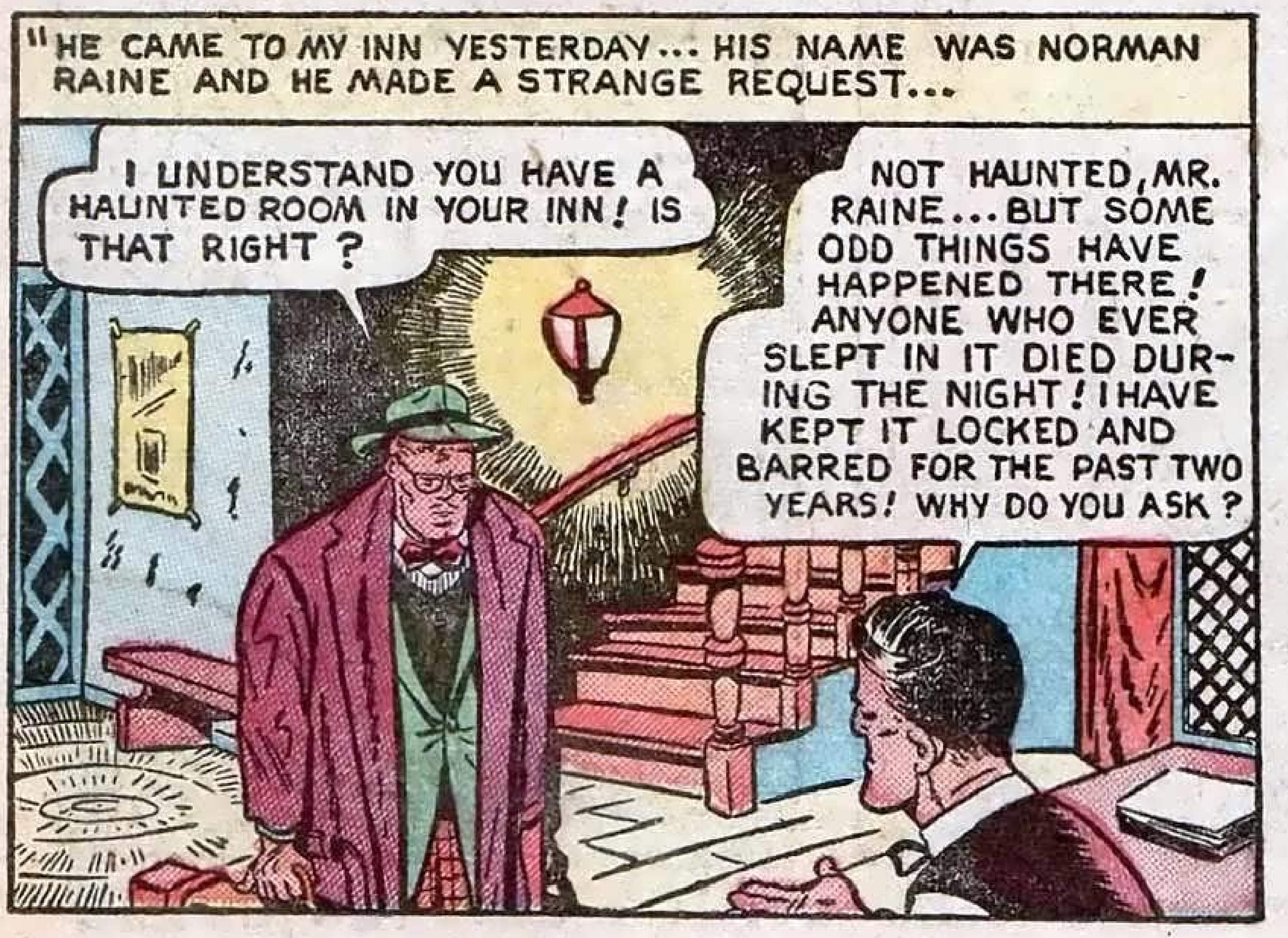
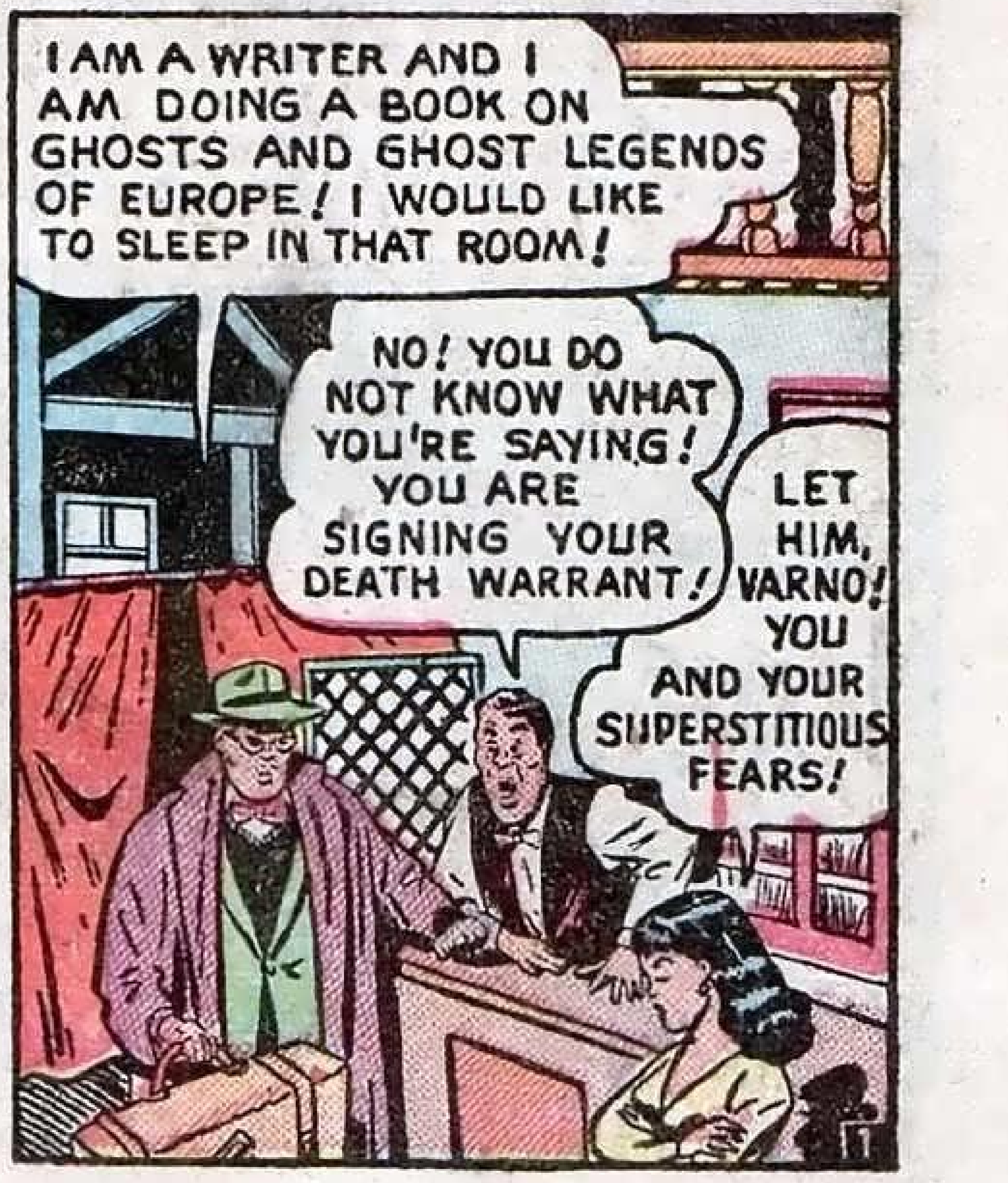
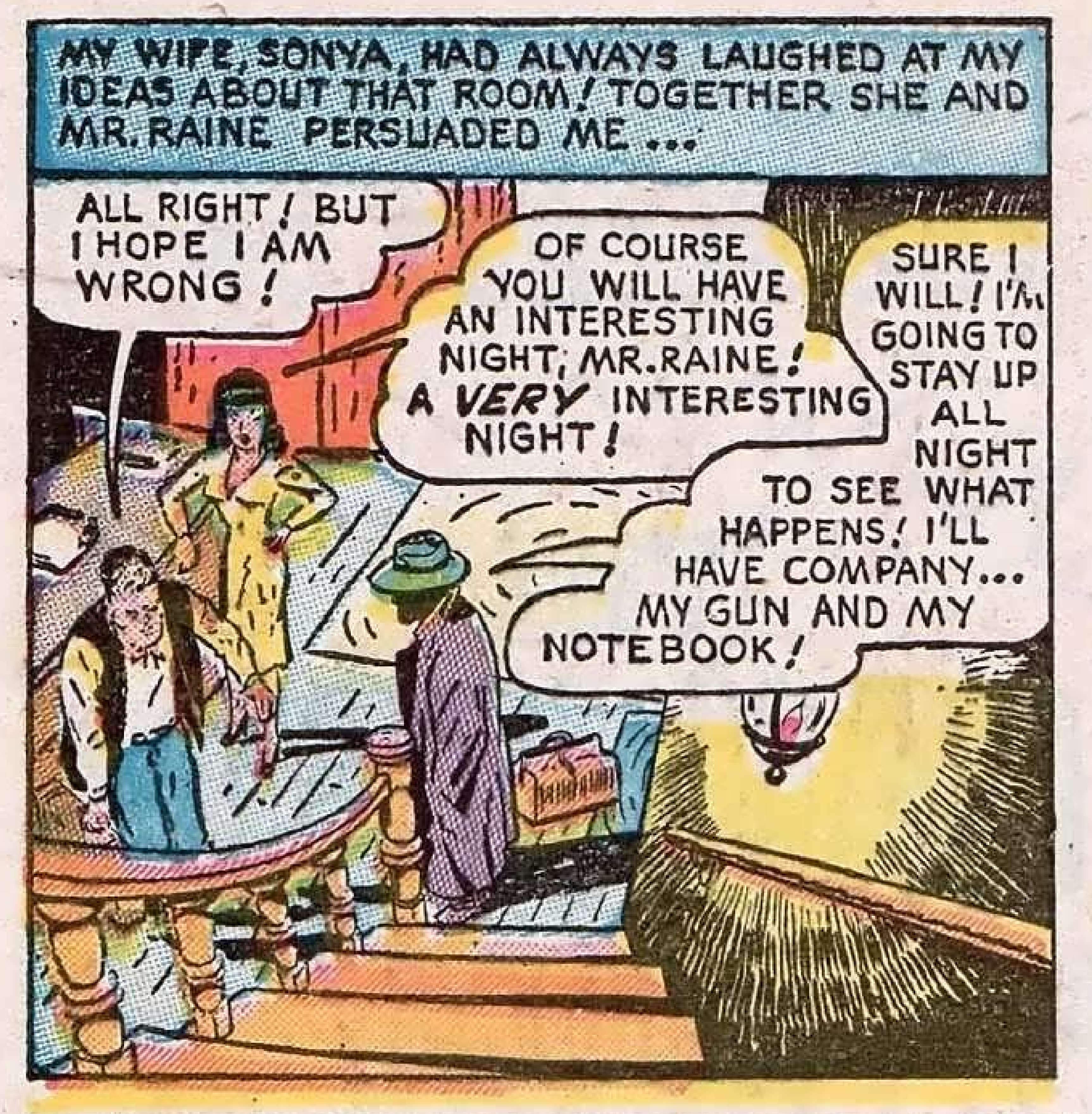
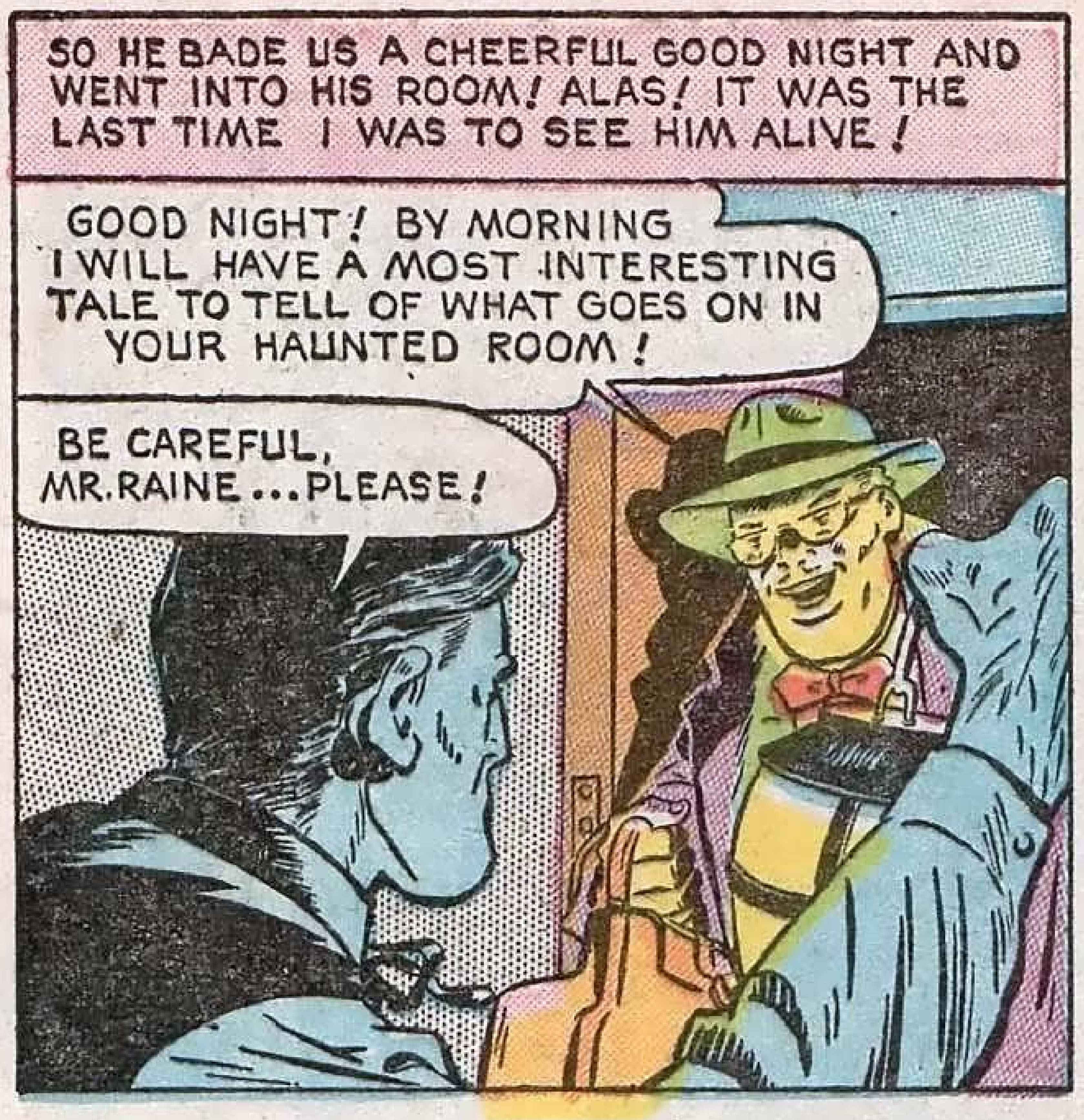

THE POLICE OF THE VILLAGE OF CZNARNAK IN HUNGARY WERE IN FOR A SHOCK, WHEN THE PHONE RANG EARLY ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 10th, 1945...
WHAT? AN AMERICAN WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS ROOM IN YOUR INN? WHO IS THIS CALLING?
THIS IS VARNO KADARIK... MY INN IS ON THE MORSTOK ROAD! COME OUT AT ONCE. PLEASE! I... THINK HE WAS MURDERED

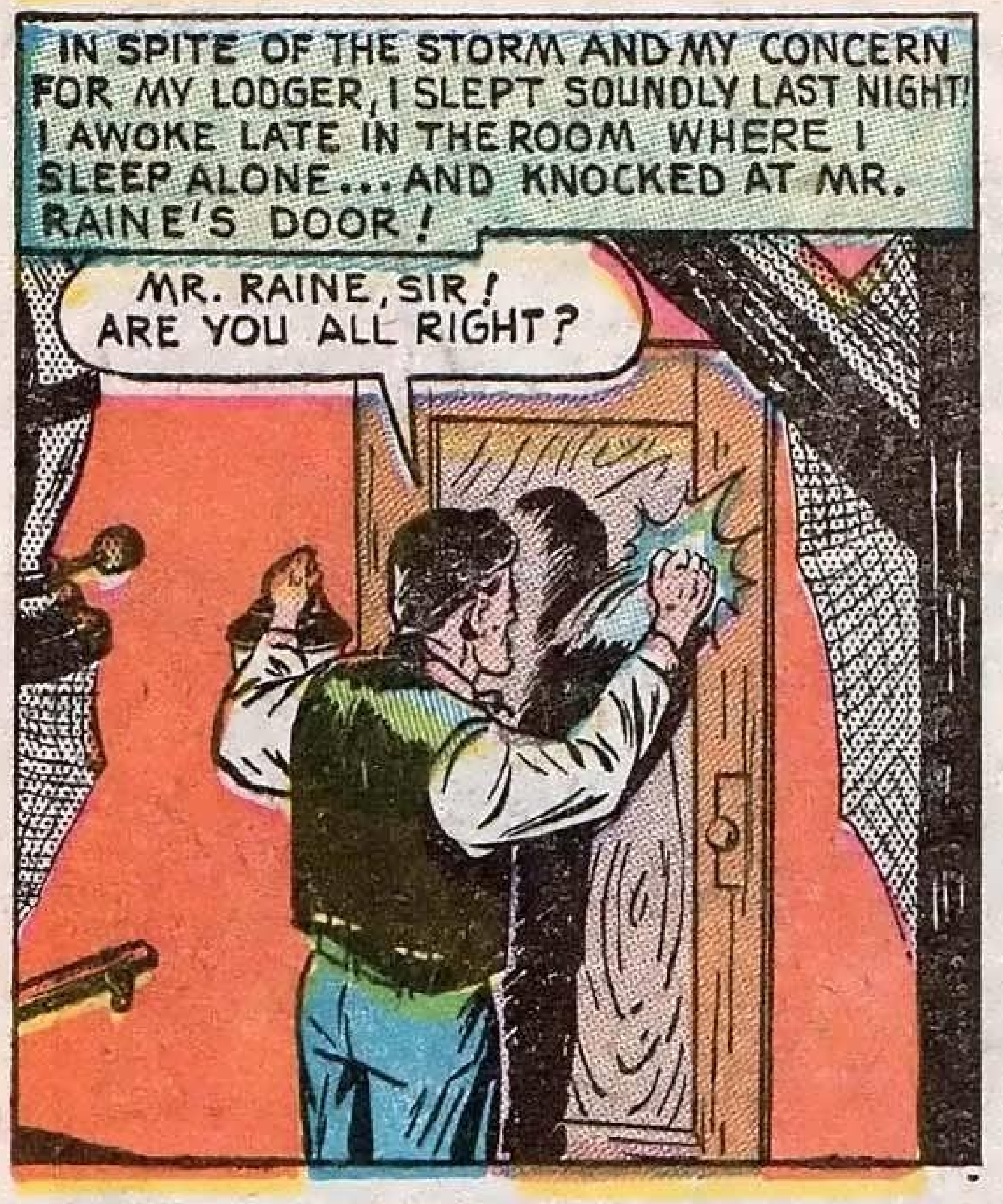

THE ROAD TO YOUR INN WAS WASHED OUT BY LAST NIGHT'S STORM-- IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL HOURS FOR MY MEN TO GET THERE! MEANWHILE, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW IT!
I'LL... DO MY BEST... BUT IT'S HORRIFYING!

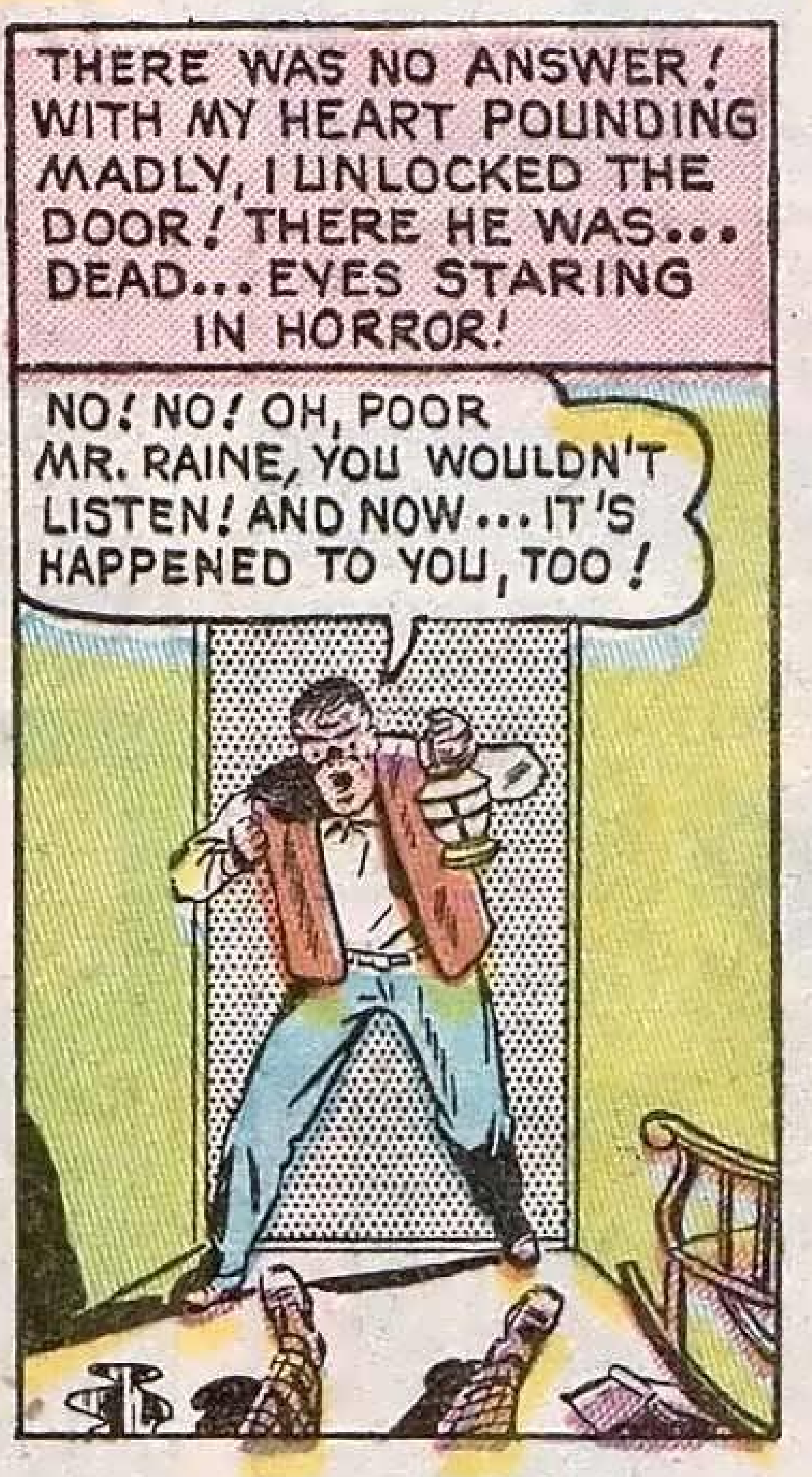

"HE CAME TO MY INN YESTERDAY... HIS NAME WAS NORMAN RAINE AND HE MADE A STRANGE REQUEST...
I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE A HAUNTED ROOM IN YOUR INN! IS THAT RIGHT?
NOT HAUNTED, MR. RAINE... BUT SOME ODD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED THERE! ANYONE WHO EVER SLEPT IN IT DIED DURING THE NIGHT! I HAVE KEPT IT LOCKED AND BARRED FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS! WHY DO YOU ASK?

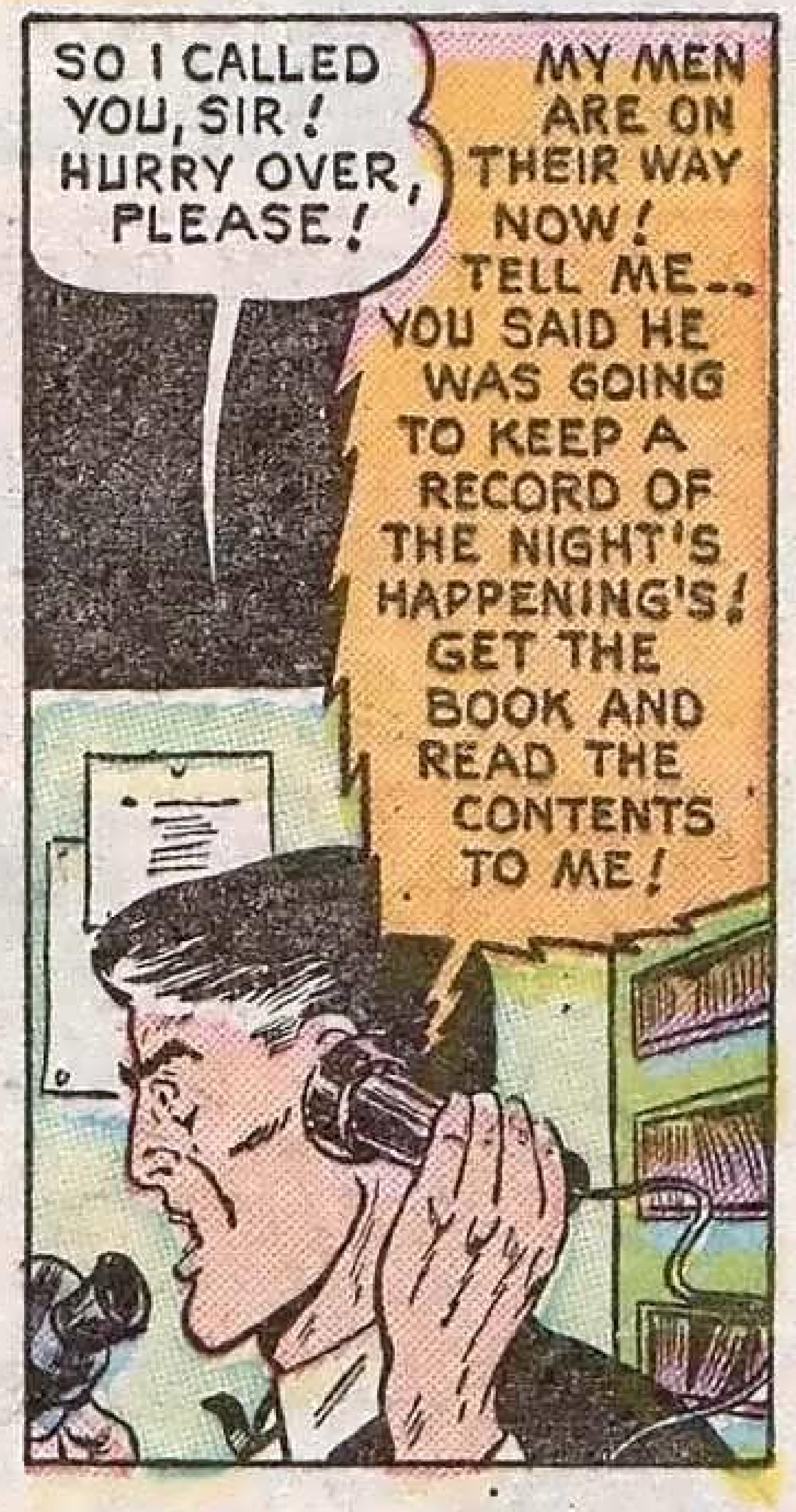

I AM A WRITER AND I AM DOING A BOOK ON GHOSTS AND GHOST LEGENDS OF EUROPE! I WOULD LIKE TO SLEEP IN THAT ROOM!
NO! YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU ARE SIGNING YOUR DEATH WARRANT!
LET HIM, VARNO! YOU AND YOUR SUPERSTITIOUS FEARS!

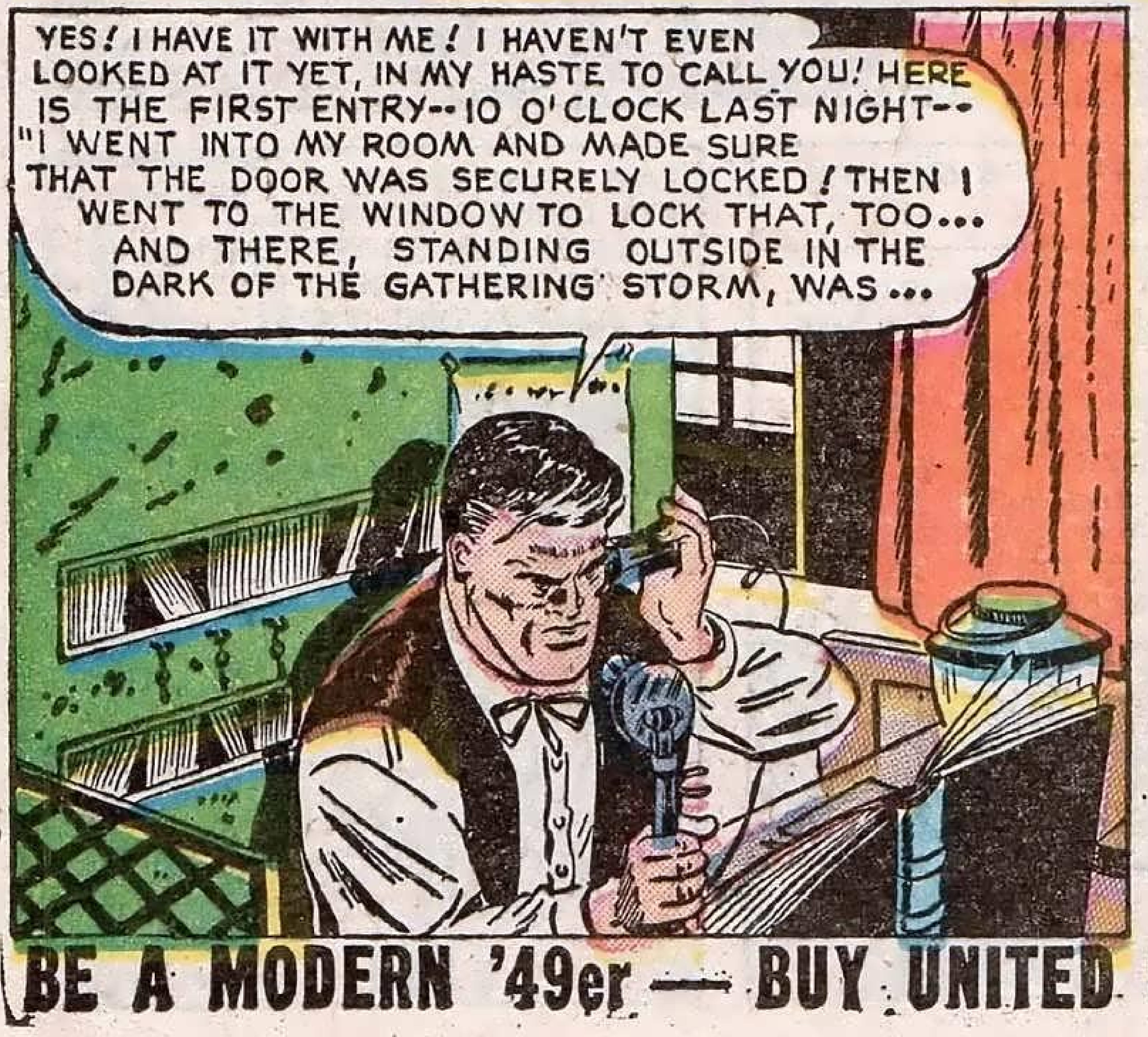

MY WIFE, SONYA, HAD ALWAYS LAUGHED AT MY IDEAS ABOUT THAT ROOM! TOGETHER SHE AND MR. RAINE PERSUADED ME ...
ALL RIGHT! BUT I HOPE I AM WRONG!
OF COURSE YOU WILL HAVE AN INTERESTING NIGHT, MR. RAINE! A *VERY* INTERESTING NIGHT!
SURE I WILL! I'M GOING TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS! I'LL HAVE COMPANY... MY GUN AND MY NOTEBOOK!

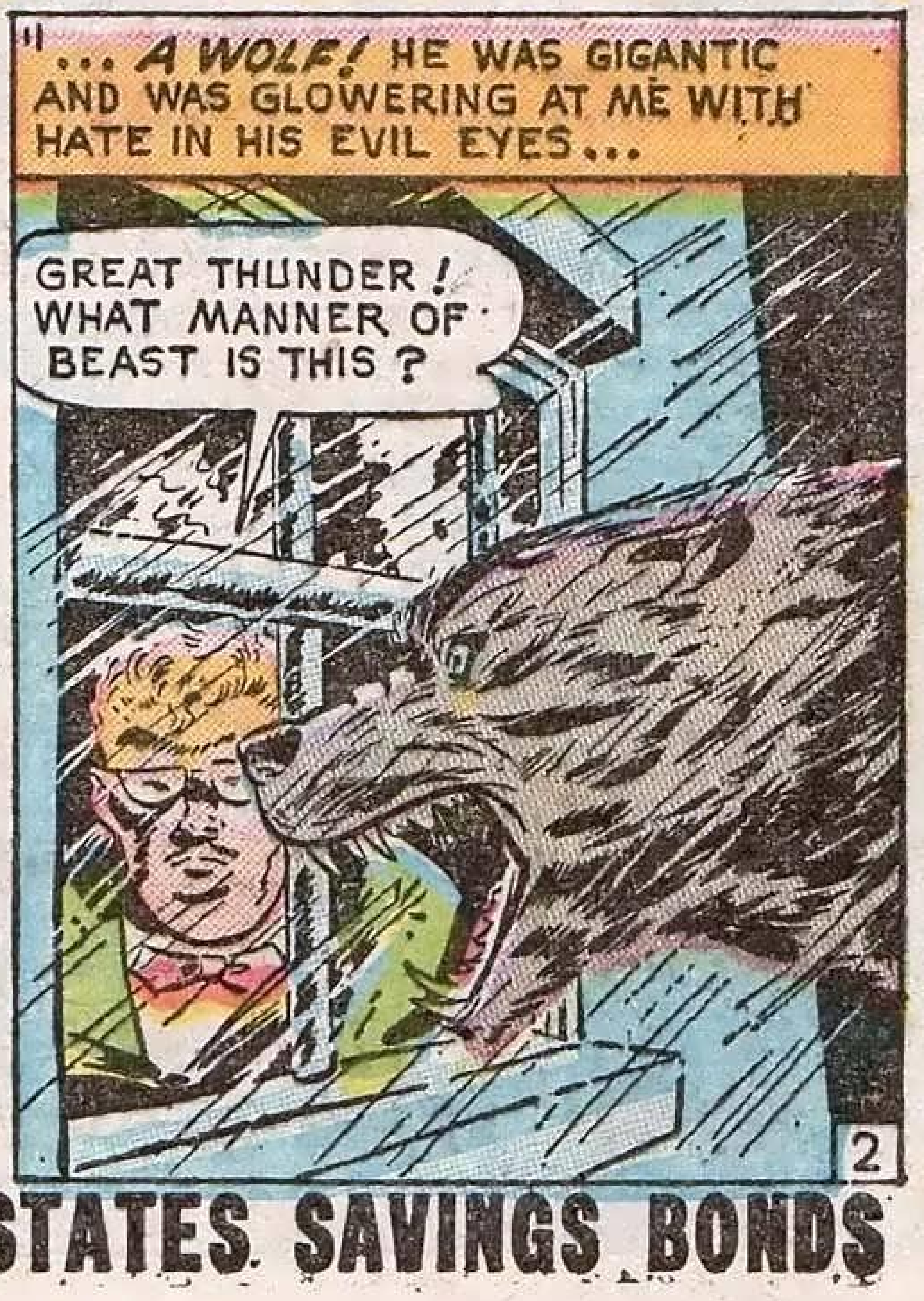

SO HE BADE US A CHEERFUL GOOD NIGHT AND WENT INTO HIS ROOM! ALAS! IT WAS THE LAST TIME I WAS TO SEE HIM ALIVE!
GOOD NIGHT! BY MORNING I WILL HAVE A MOST INTERESTING TALE TO TELL OF WHAT GOES ON IN YOUR HAUNTED ROOM!
BE CAREFUL, MR. RAINE ... PLEASE!


IN SPITE OF THE STORM AND MY CONCERN FOR MY LODGER, I SLEPT SOUNDLY LAST NIGHT! I AWOKE LATE IN THE ROOM WHERE I SLEEP ALONE... AND KNOCKED AT MR. RAINE'S DOOR!
MR. RAINE, SIR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


THERE WAS NO ANSWER! WITH MY HEART POUNDING MADLY, I UNLOCKED THE DOOR! THERE HE WAS... DEAD... EYES STARING IN HORROR!
NO! NO! OH, POOR MR. RAINE, YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN! AND NOW ... IT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, TOO!


SO I CALLED YOU, SIR! HURRY OVER, PLEASE!
MY MEN ARE ON THEIR WAY NOW! TELL ME... YOU SAID HE WAS GOING TO KEEP A RECORD OF THE NIGHT'S HAPPENING'S! GET THE BOOK AND READ THE CONTENTS TO ME!

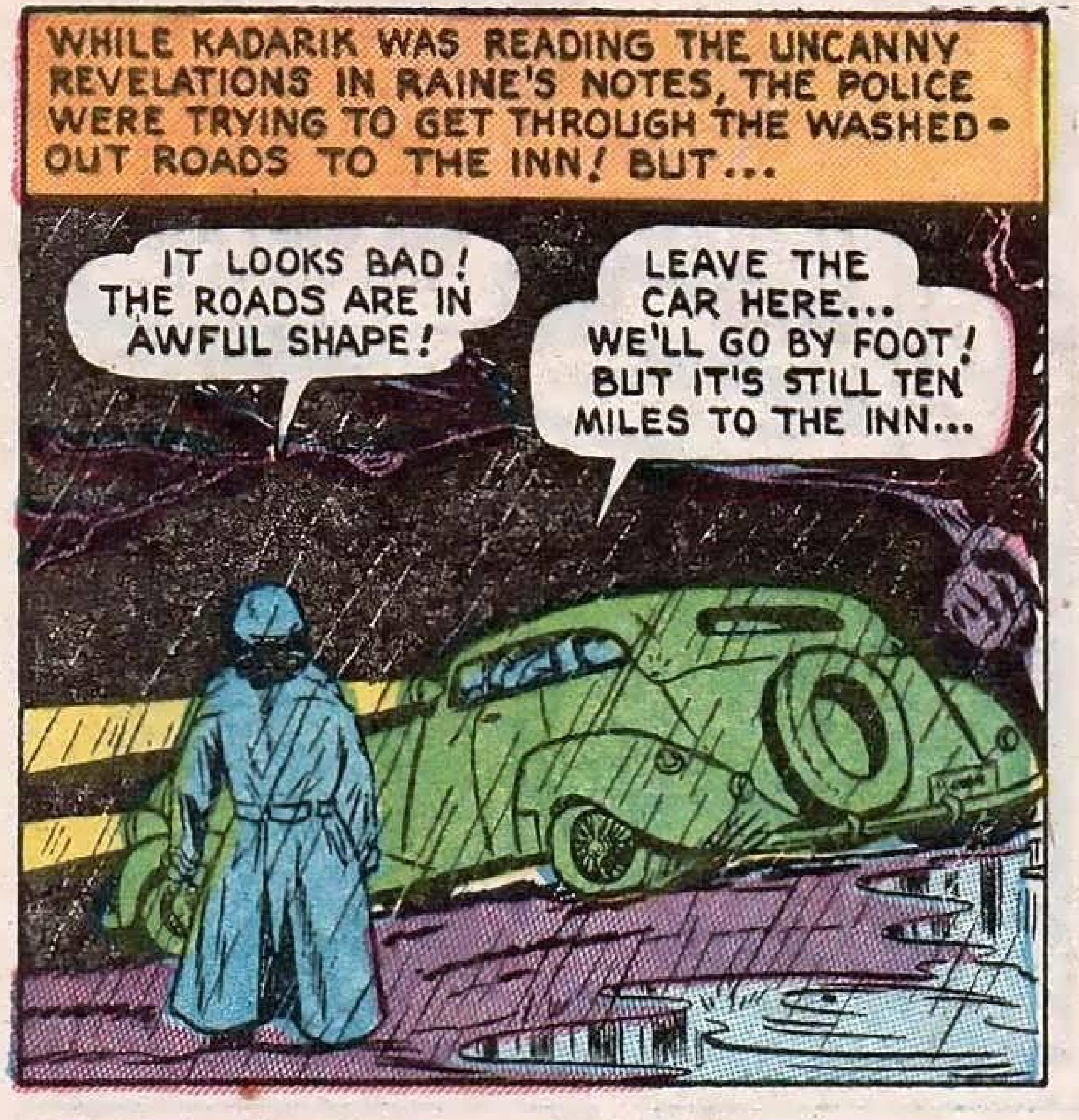

YES! I HAVE IT WITH ME! I HAVEN'T EVEN LOOKED AT IT YET, IN MY HASTE TO CALL YOU! HERE IS THE FIRST ENTRY-- 10 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT-- "I WENT INTO MY ROOM AND MADE SURE THAT THE DOOR WAS SECURELY LOCKED! THEN I WENT TO THE WINDOW TO LOCK THAT, TOO... AND THERE, STANDING OUTSIDE IN THE DARK OF THE GATHERING STORM, WAS...

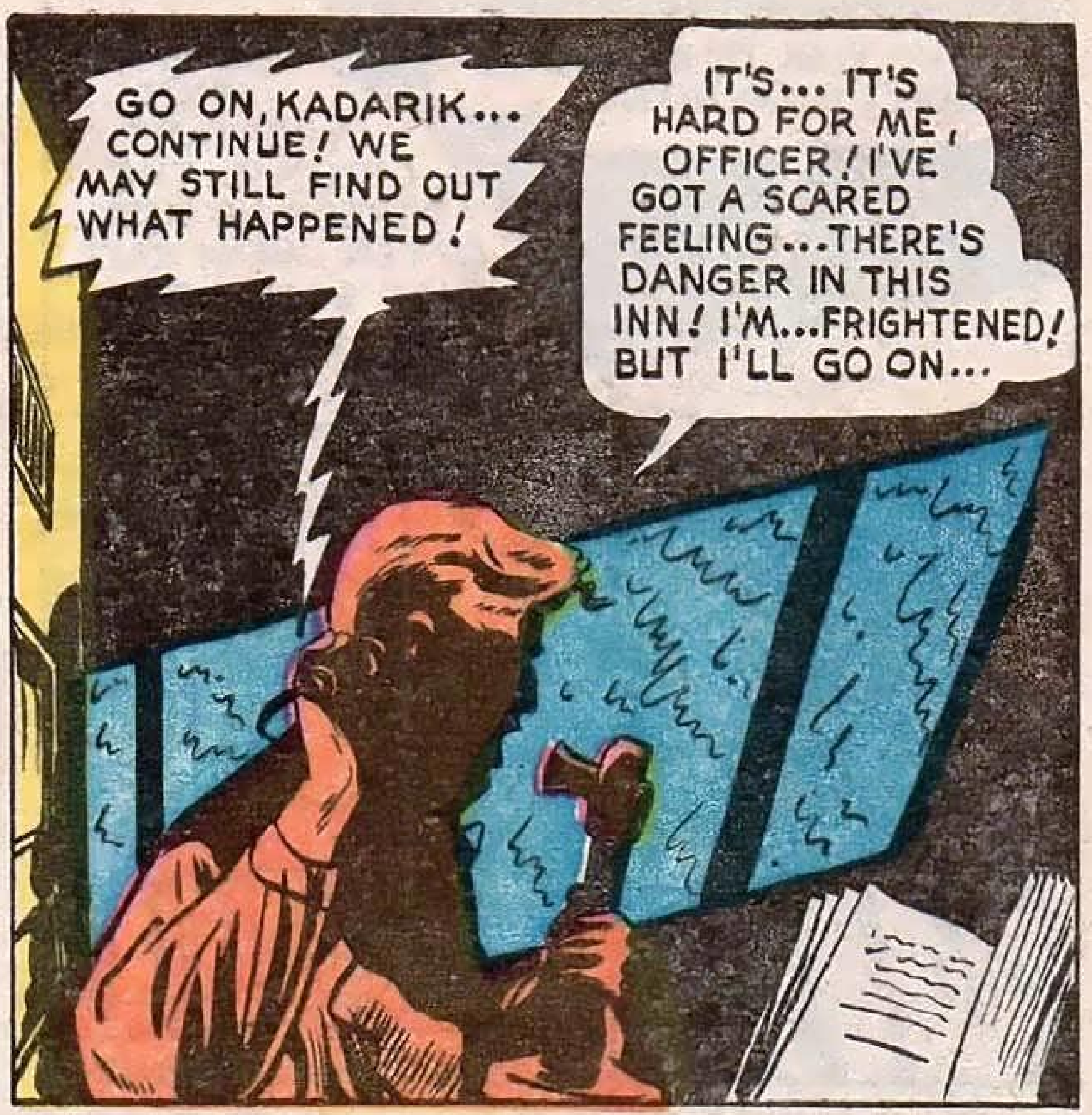

"... *A WOLF!* HE WAS GIGANTIC AND WAS GLOWERING AT ME WITH HATE IN HIS EVIL EYES...
GREAT THUNDER! WHAT MANNER OF BEAST IS THIS?

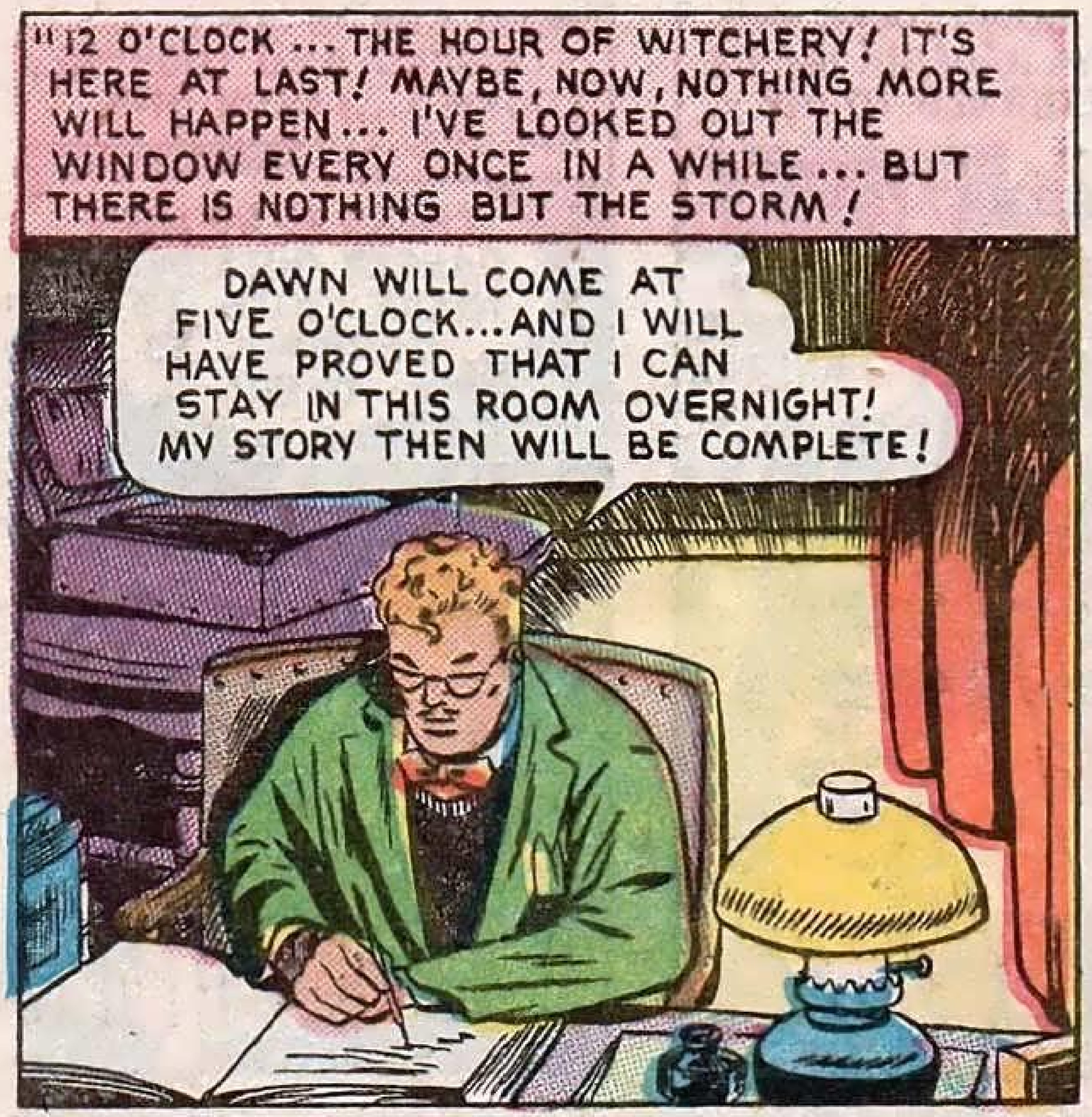
BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

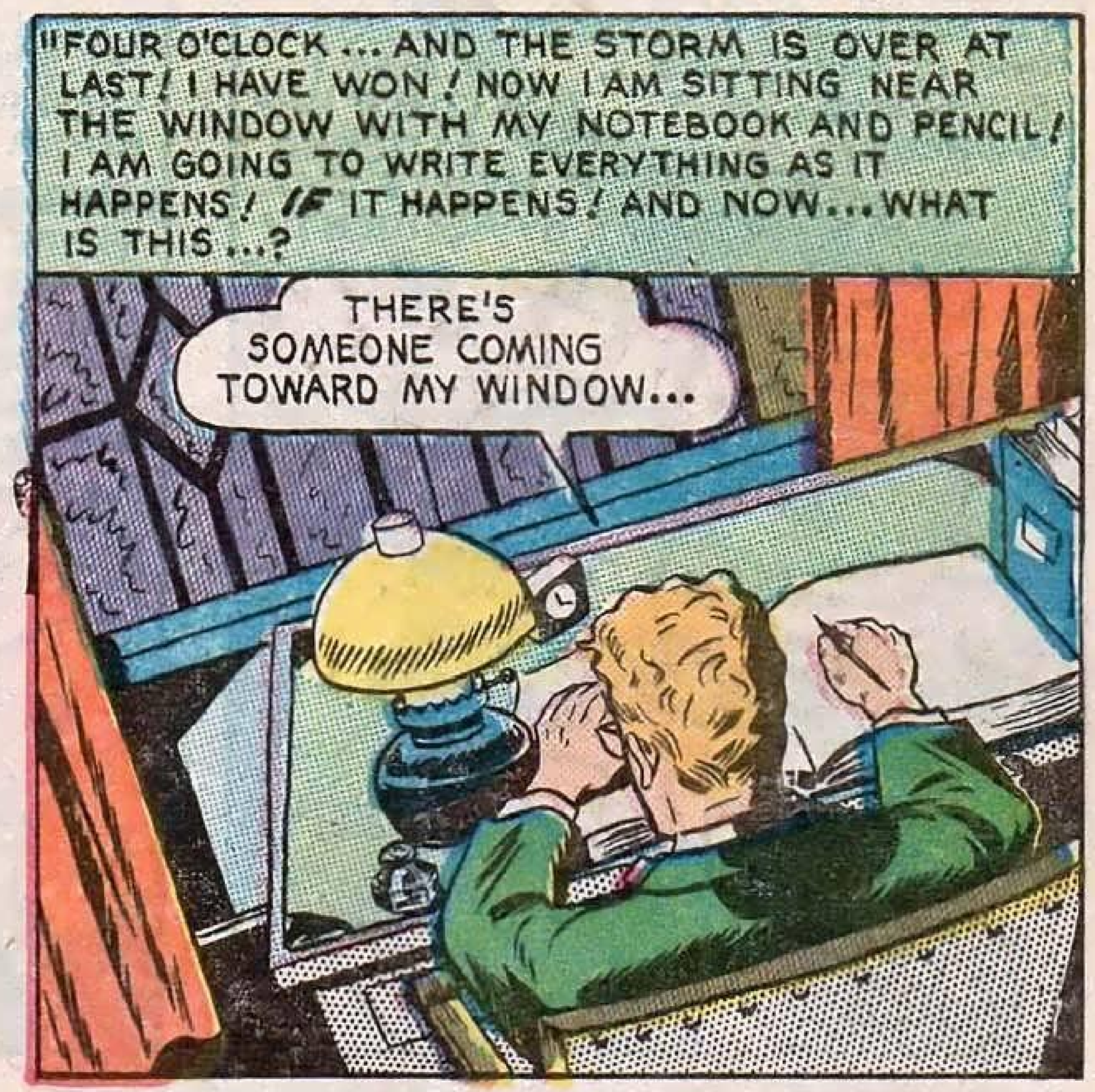
"WITH A SUDDEN DEEP-THROATED GROWL, IT FLUNG ITSELF AT THE BARS OF MY WINDOW! LUCKILY THE BARS WERE STRONG OR IT WOULD HAVE CRASHED INTO MY ROOM!
"THEN IN DISGUST, IT STREAKED OFF INTO THE NIGHT! I PEERED AFTER IT! AT THE TURN OF THE ROAD, AN AMAZING THING HAPPENED!
ARE MY EYES FOOLING ME? THE HAZE OF NIGHT MUST BE PLAYING TRICKS ON ME! I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING--IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
"IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN OPTICAL ILLUSION... BUT I SEEMED TO SEE... *THE WOLF CHANGED INTO... A WOMAN!*
"11 O'CLOCK... SHE'S GONE--WALKED OFF INTO THE NIGHT! NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SO FAR! JUST THE STORM!
Inn
"I HAD TO STOP WRITING... A STRANGE, WEIRD THING HAPPENED JUST THEN--MORE FEARSOME THAN THE STORM... MORE DREADFUL! I WAS AT THE WINDOW WHEN I SAW SOMEONE WALKING DOWN THE ROAD... IT WAS A MAN, CAUGHT IN THE FURY OF THE GALE, SEEKING REFUGE IN THE INN! THE LIGHT FROM MY WINDOW WAS THE ONLY ONE--HE CAME TOWARD MY WINDOW AND I HURRIED TO OPEN THE FRONT DOOR TO LET HIM IN...
JUST A MINUTE! I'LL LET YOU IN
HURRY! PLEASE HURRY!
I RUSHED DOWNSTAIRS AND FLUNG OPEN THE DOOR! THEN I SAW... *HIS TEETH!* THEY WERE TURNING TO LONG, WOLFLIKE FANGS! HIS EYES WERE BEGINNING TO SLANT! I SUDDENLY REALIZED HE WAS TURNING INTO...
... A WOLF MAN!

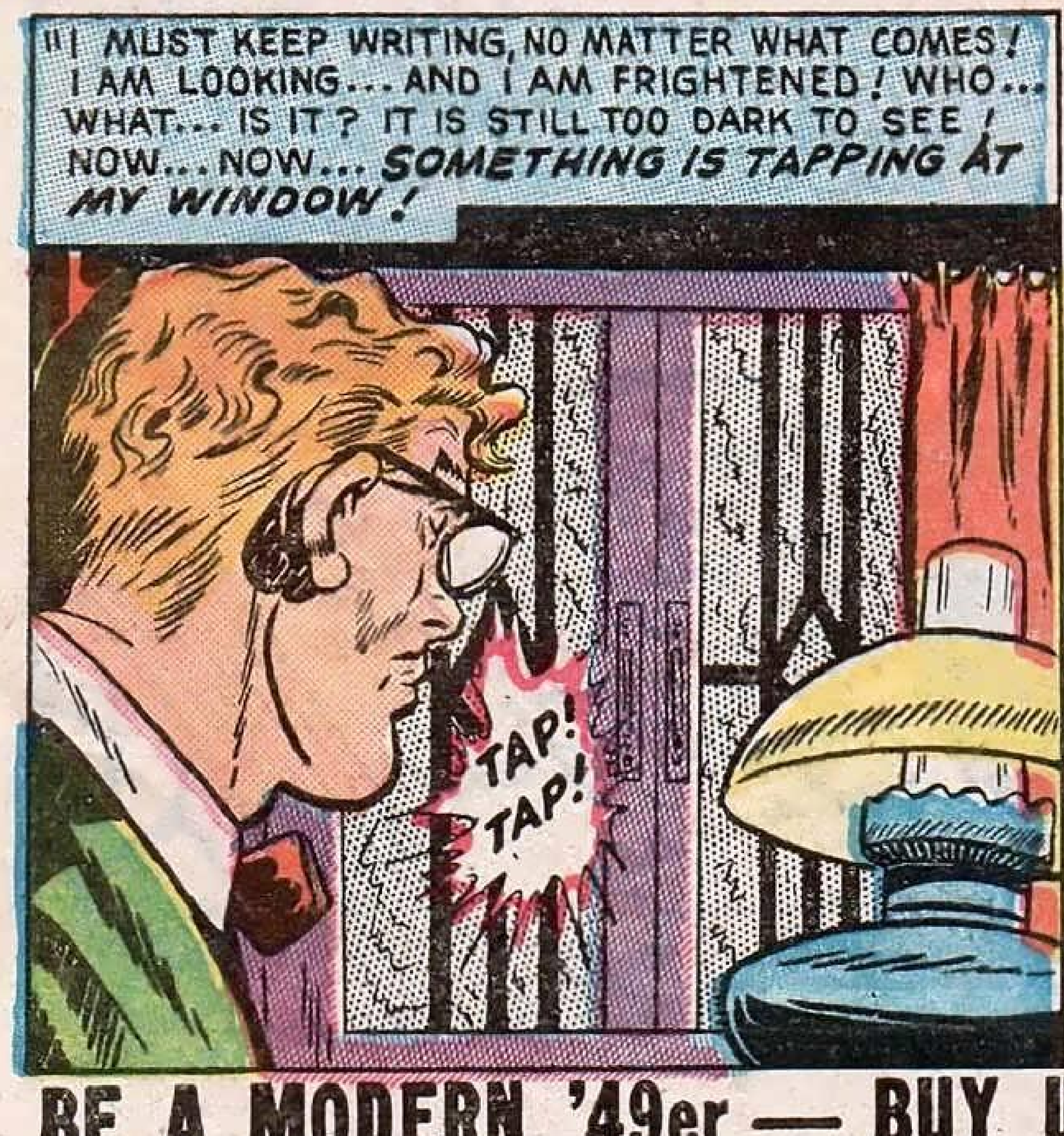
"JUST IN TIME I SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT! WITH HIS FANGS ONLY INCHES AWAY FROM MY FACE, I ELUDED DEATH BY A FRACTION!
SLAM
"AND HE STALKED OFF, LOOKING BACK OVER HIS SHOULDER, HATE IN HIS EYES! I WAS SHAKING WITH FEAR! WHAT WAS ALL THIS? WAS THIS THE CURSE ON THE INN? WAS THIS ROOM A RENDEZVOUS FOR... FOR... WEREWOLVES?"
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE, OFFICER!... BUT IT'S ALL DOWN IN BLACK AND WHITE!
JUST A MOMENT MR. KADARIK! I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING! GO BACK INTO THAT ROOM!
WHAT? I CAN'T! I CAN'T, I TELL YOU!
YOU MUST... IT'S IMPORTANT! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY... DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING, BUT TELL ME IF YOU SEE ANYTHING WHICH SEEMS UNUSUAL NEAR THE BODY!
KADARIK DID AS THE POLICE OFFICER ASKED... AND WHAT HE SAW WAS SHORT THICK, GRAY HAIRS CAUGHT IN RAINE'S FINGERS...
PROTECT US! HEAVEN, PROTECT US!
OFFICER... I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! HE HAS HAIRS CAUGHT IN HIS HANDS... THE UGLY HAIRS OF A WOLF!
ALL RIGHT, KADARIK! CONTROL YOURSELF NOW, AND GO ON WITH THE READING OF THE NOTES!
THE NEXT ENTRY IS AT 11:30..."I AM SURE NOW THAT KADARIK'S STORY WAS NO IDLE TALE! THERE IS EVIL IN THIS ROOM... GRIM, DARK, EVIL! THE STORM IS RAGING FURIOUSLY OUTDOORS... INSIDE ALL IS QUIET... EVERYONE MUST BE ASLEEP... EXCEPT ME! AND TO THINK THAT THEY ARE OUTSIDE, LURKING, WAITING... I MUST BE ON MY GUARD! I WILL NOT BE TRAPPED BY THEM... I MUST NOT! BUT WHAT IS COMING? WHAT?... WHAT... WHAT?"

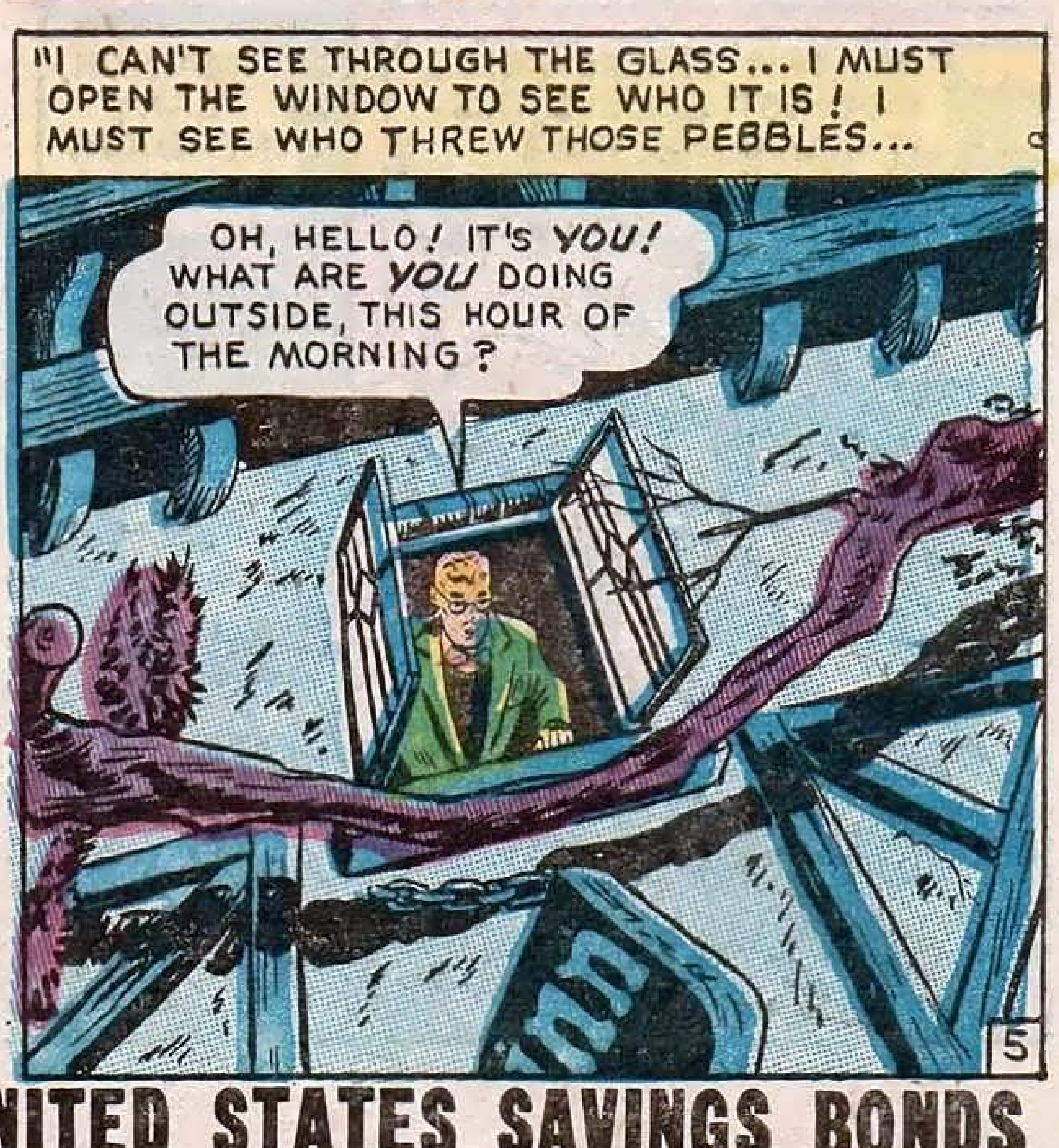

WHILE KADARIK WAS READING THE UNCANNY REVELATIONS IN RAINE'S NOTES, THE POLICE WERE TRYING TO GET THROUGH THE WASHED-OUT ROADS TO THE INN! BUT...
IT LOOKS BAD! THE ROADS ARE IN AWFUL SHAPE!
LEAVE THE CAR HERE... WE'LL GO BY FOOT! BUT IT'S STILL TEN MILES TO THE INN...


GO ON, KADARIK... CONTINUE! WE MAY STILL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED!
IT'S... IT'S HARD FOR ME, OFFICER! I'VE GOT A SCARED FEELING... THERE'S DANGER IN THIS INN! I'M... FRIGHTENED! BUT I'LL GO ON...


"12 O'CLOCK... THE HOUR OF WITCHERY! IT'S HERE AT LAST! MAYBE, NOW, NOTHING MORE WILL HAPPEN... I'VE LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE... BUT THERE IS NOTHING BUT THE STORM!
DAWN WILL COME AT FIVE O'CLOCK... AND I WILL HAVE PROVED THAT I CAN STAY IN THIS ROOM OVERNIGHT! MY STORY THEN WILL BE COMPLETE!


"FOUR O'CLOCK... AND THE STORM IS OVER AT LAST! I HAVE WON! NOW I AM SITTING NEAR THE WINDOW WITH MY NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL! I AM GOING TO WRITE EVERYTHING AS IT HAPPENS! IF IT HAPPENS! AND NOW... WHAT IS THIS...?
THERE'S SOMEONE COMING TOWARD MY WINDOW...


"I MUST KEEP WRITING, NO MATTER WHAT COMES! I AM LOOKING... AND I AM FRIGHTENED! WHO... WHAT... IS IT? IT IS STILL TOO DARK TO SEE! NOW... NOW... SOMETHING IS TAPPING AT MY WINDOW!
TAP! TAP!


"I CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE GLASS... I MUST OPEN THE WINDOW TO SEE WHO IT IS! I MUST SEE WHO THREW THOSE PEBBLES...
OH, HELLO! IT'S YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE, THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING?

BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

WHO WAS IT, KADARIK ? DON'T STOP NOW...
THIS PART ISN'T IMPORTANT, OFFICER! THE PERSON HE SAW, OFTEN WENT OUT THAT EARLY TO DO CHORES! HOWEVER, IT WAS ..
SONYA KADARIK! WHEW! YOU SCARED ME -- I THOUGHT YOU WERE...
YES? I SCARED YOU? MY! A BIG MAN LIKE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF... AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
INN
I'M WRITING EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING... EVEN *THIS*... AS IT HAPPENS!
SO! MAY I COME IN? I LOCKED MYSELF OUT BY ACCIDENT!
INN
"I WENT DOWNSTAIRS AND LET SONYA KADARIK IN! WE THEN RETURNED TO MY ROOM...
THERE ARE THINGS OUT THERE, MRS. KADARIK-- DANGEROUS THINGS!...
I KNOW MR. RAINE, I KNOW...
"NOW SHE IS JUST STANDING AND LOOKING.. LOOKING...! NOW SHE SPEAKS..."
THERE IS NO MORE DANGER OUTSIDE! THE NIGHT... WITH ITS TERRORS.. IS OVER!
NO! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS! IT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED... NOT THIS WAY!
READ ON, MAN! READ ON, I SAY!
BUT VARNO KADARIK'S TONGUE FROZE IN HIS MOUTH! HE COULD NOT FIND BREATH TO SPEAK! THE BLOOD THROBBED IN HIS TEMPLES AS HE LOOKED AT THE NOTEBOOK AND SAW -- THE LAST ENTRY OF NORMAN RAINE...
Her eyes... look at me! Now they are gleaming! Her teeth... I never noticed before... they're long and fanged! and now she

KADARIK! KADARIK! ARE YOU THERE? FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN, MAN--READ THE REST OF IT!
THERE... IS... NO... MORE!
YOUR MEN... WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG?
THEY SHOULD BE THERE SOON! KADARIK, LISTEN... YOU ARE IN DANGER--GREAT DANGER!
LEAVE THE INN AT ONCE! RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! KADARIK--DO YOU HEAR ME?
THE DOOR... IT IS OPENING... SOMEONE IS COMING IN...
DON'T STAY THERE! SHE... IT WILL GET YOU, TOO! GBT OUT! GET OUT!
... IT IS SONYA! MY BELOVED WIFE! SHE IS STANDING THERE... LOOKING AT ME... JUST LOOKING!
BY THUNDER, MAN, LEAVE! REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO RAINE! YOU MUST GET OUT! YOU...
SONYA, IT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT--WHAT MR. RAINE WROTE HERE? IT WAS A NIGHTMARE HE HAD, WASN'T IT? SONYA, ANSWER... SONYA! SONYA!
EEEEEEEH!
YES, VARNO... IT IS TRUE! I AM A WEREWOLF!
THE END

AMAZING MYSTERIES
JULY NO. 33
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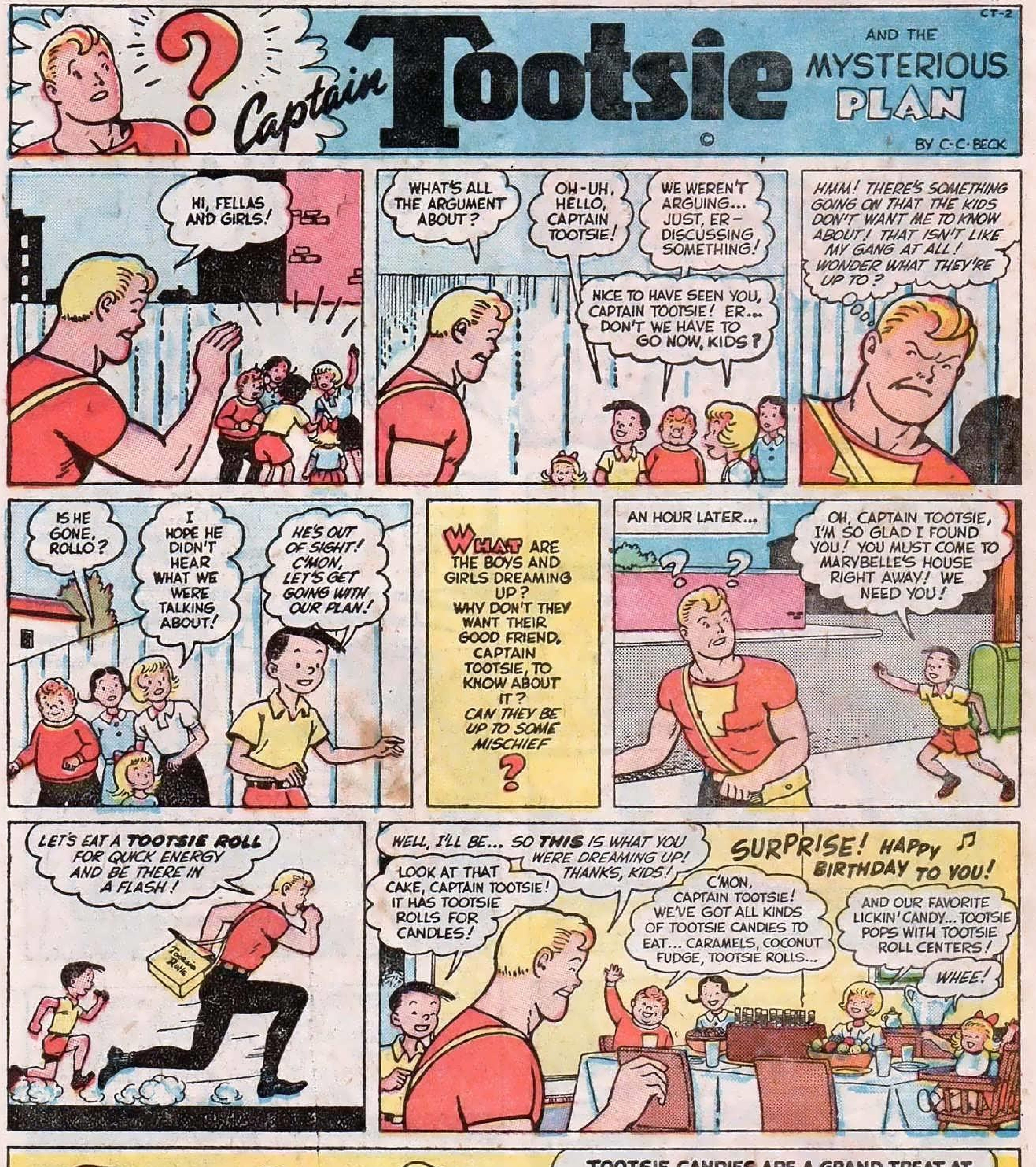
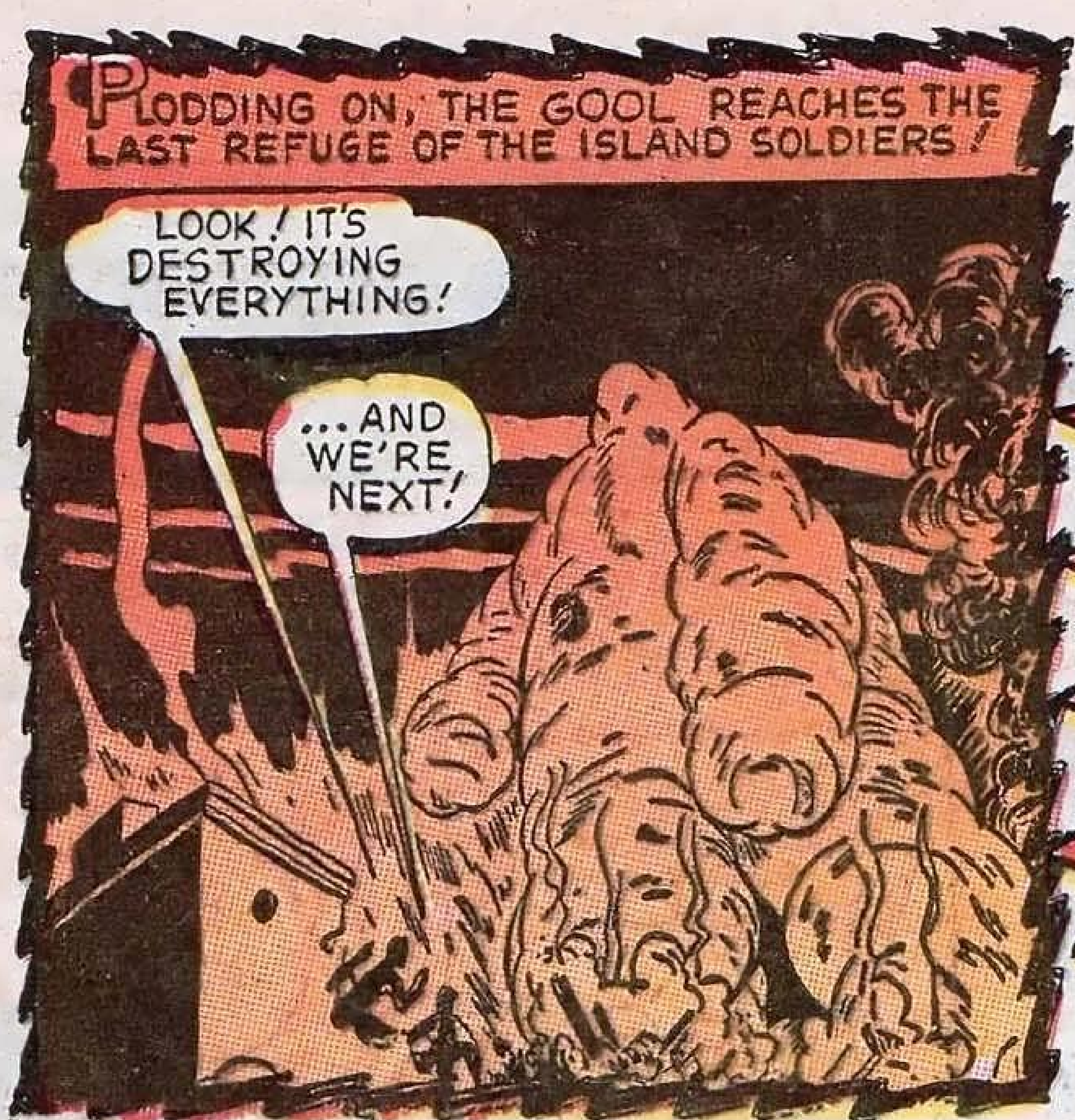
"THE THING IN THE VAULT!"
NEW!
THE KIND OF STORIES THAT LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS!
GET YOUR SPINE-TINGLING COPY TODAY!


CT-2
Captain Tootsie AND THE MYSTERIOUS PLAN
©
BY C-C-BECK
HI, FELLAS AND GIRLS!
WHAT'S ALL THE ARGUMENT ABOUT?
OH-UH, HELLO, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE!
WE WEREN'T ARGUING... JUST, ER-DISCUSSING SOMETHING!
NICE TO HAVE SEEN YOU, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE! ER... DON'T WE HAVE TO GO NOW, KIDS?
HMM! THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON THAT THE KIDS DON'T WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT! THAT ISN'T LIKE MY GANG AT ALL! WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO?
IS HE GONE, ROLLO?
I HOPE HE DIDN'T HEAR WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT!
HE'S OUT OF SIGHT! C'MON, LET'S GET GOING WITH OUR PLAN!
WHAT ARE THE BOYS AND GIRLS DREAMING UP? WHY DON'T THEY WANT THEIR GOOD FRIEND, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE, TO KNOW ABOUT IT? CAN THEY BE UP TO SOME MISCHIEF?
AN HOUR LATER...
OH, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE, I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU! YOU MUST COME TO MARYBELLE'S HOUSE RIGHT AWAY! WE NEED YOU!
LET'S EAT A TOOTSIE ROLL FOR QUICK ENERGY AND BE THERE IN A FLASH!
Tootsie Rolls
WELL, I'LL BE... SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE DREAMING UP! THANKS, KIDS!
LOOK AT THAT CAKE, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE! IT HAS TOOTSIE ROLLS FOR CANDLES!
SURPRISE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
C'MON, CAPTAIN TOOTSIE! WE'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF TOOTSIE CANDIES TO EAT... CARAMELS, COCONUT FUDGE, TOOTSIE ROLLS...
AND OUR FAVORITE LICKIN' CANDY... TOOTSIE POPS WITH TOOTSIE ROLL CENTERS!
WHEE!
Tootsie POP
LICKING GOOD TOP-5 FLAVORS
A DOUBLE TREAT!
DELICIOUS CHEWY TOOTSIE ROLL CENTER
Tootsie Roll
Tootsie Roll
Tootsie Caramels
Tootsie Fudge
COCONUT CENTER
TOOTSIE CANDIES ARE A GRAND TREAT AT ANY TIME... EACH PIECE PACKED WITH MOUTH-WATERING GOODNESS AND ENERGY! GET SOME TODAY!


PLODDING ON, THE GOOL REACHES THE LAST REFUGE OF THE ISLAND SOLDIERS!
LOOK! IT'S DESTROYING EVERYTHING!
...AND WE'RE NEXT!

THE GOOL STRIKES!

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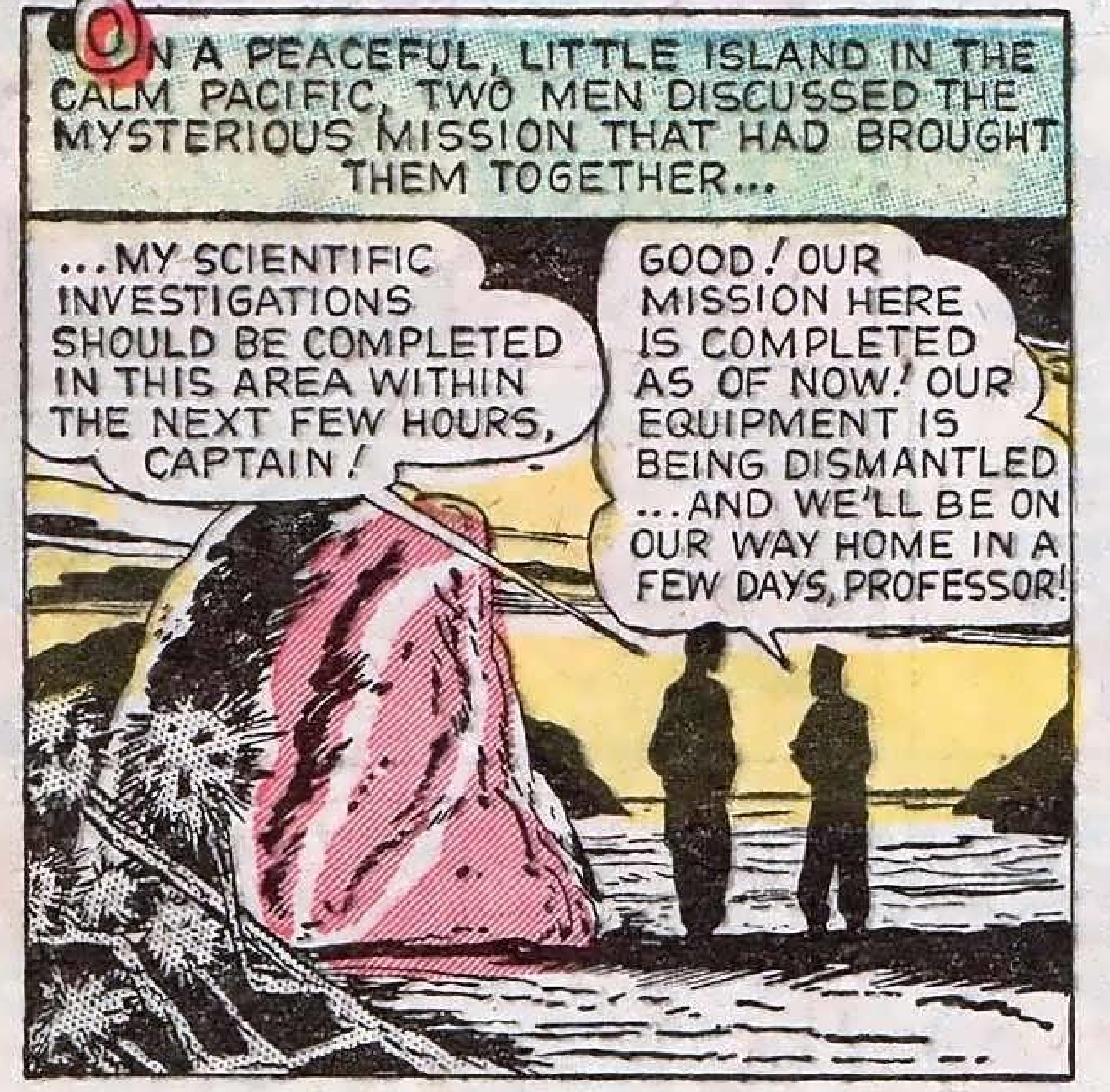
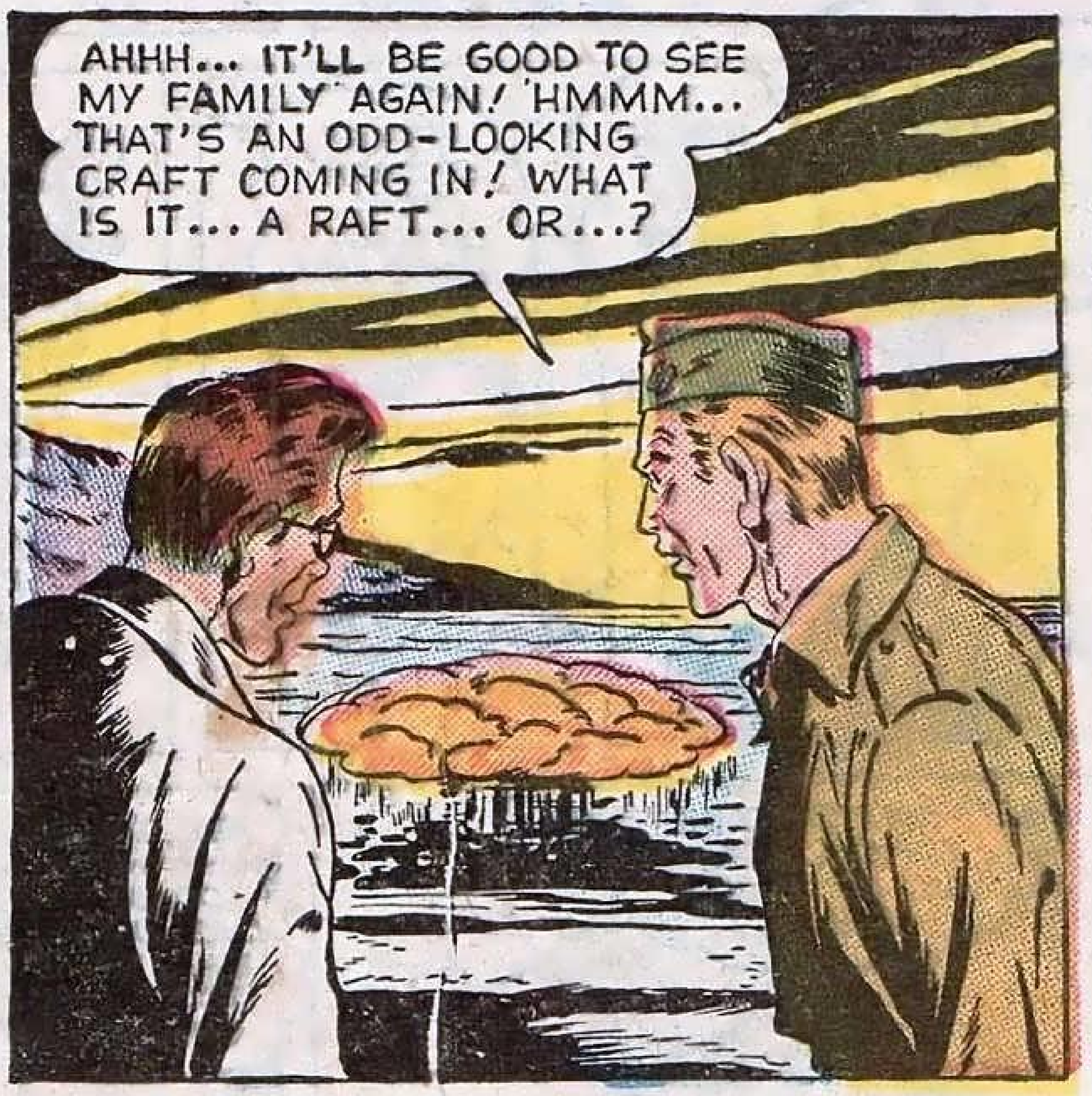
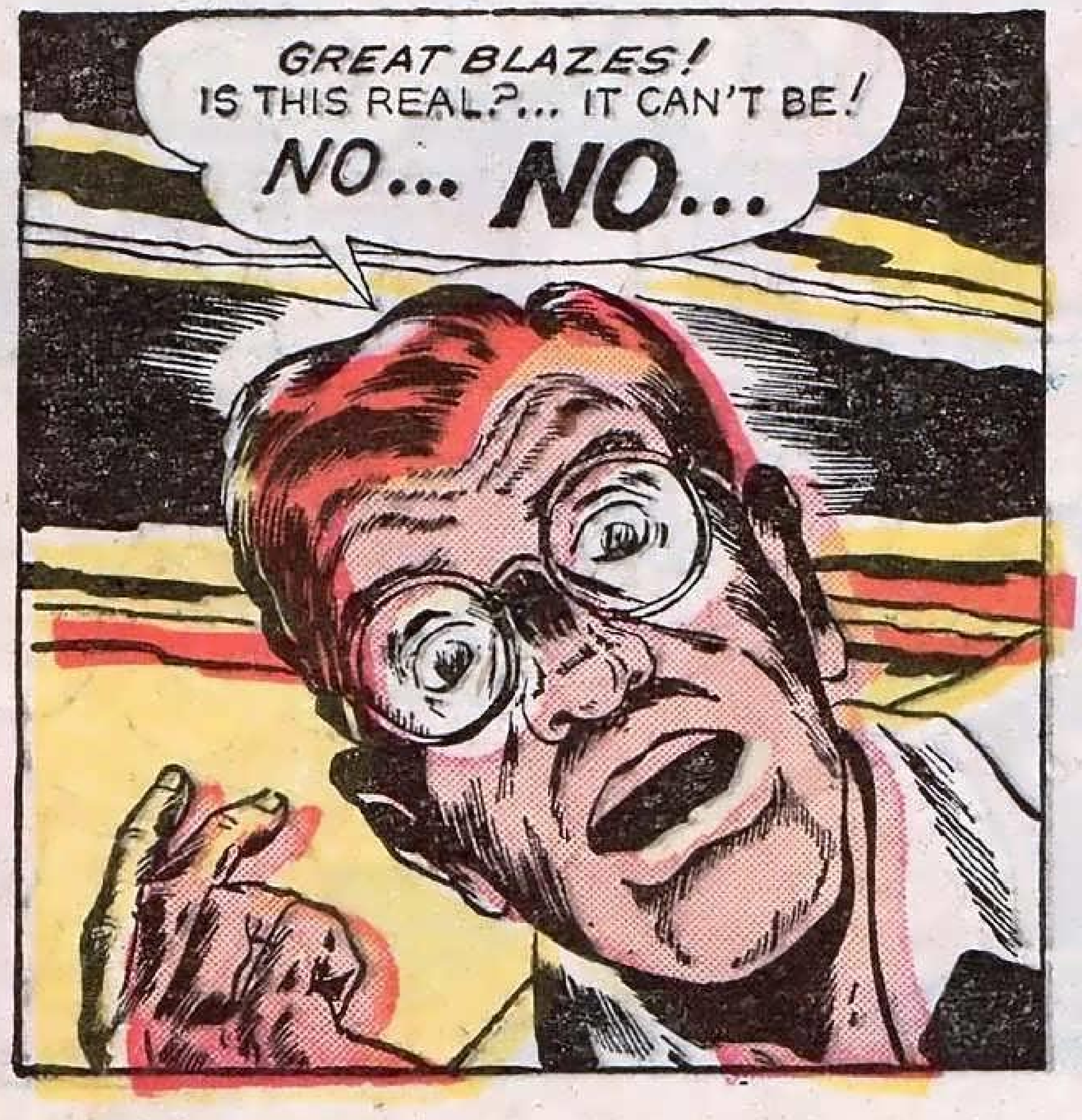
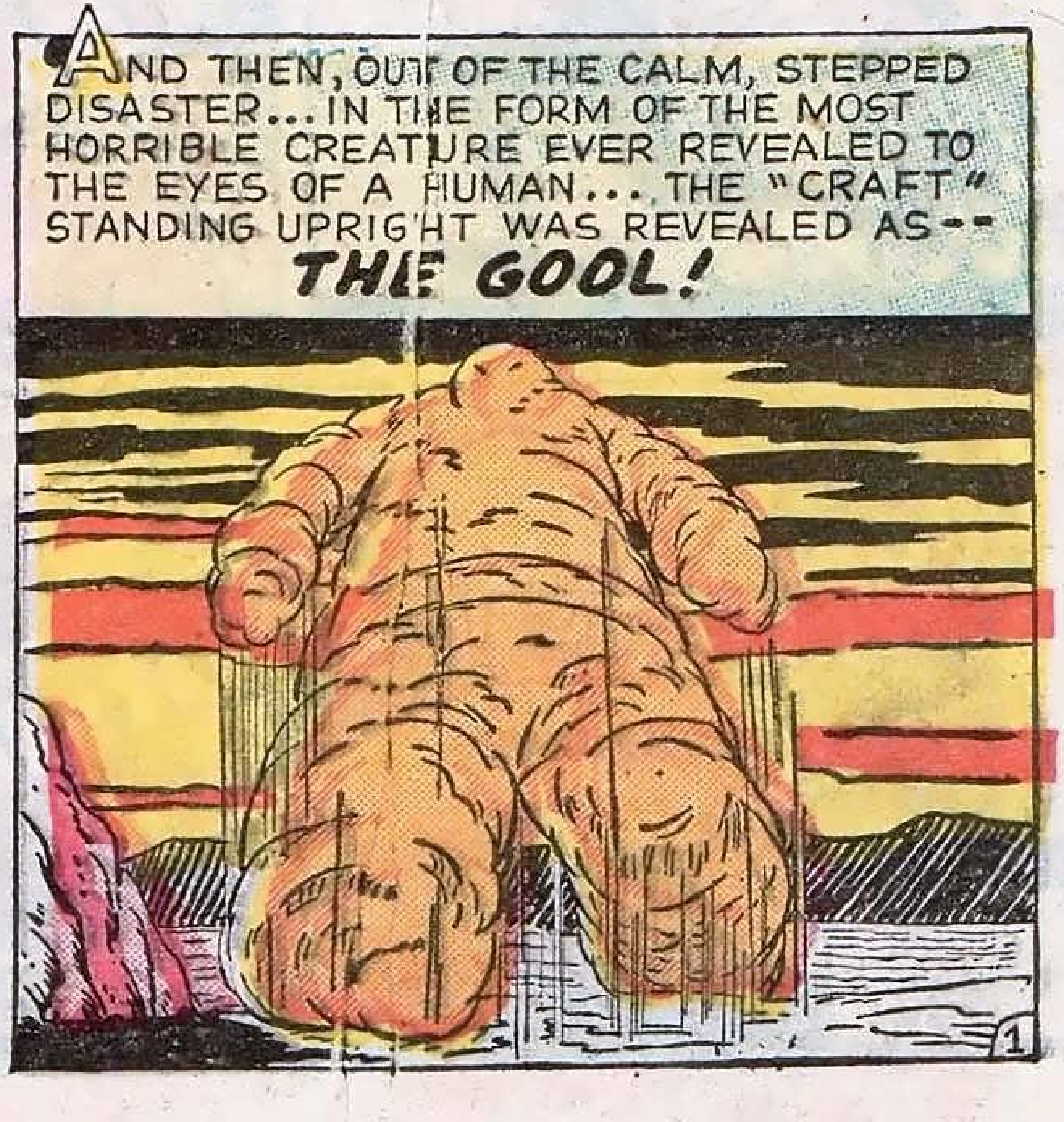

ON A PEACEFUL, LITTLE ISLAND IN THE CALM PACIFIC, TWO MEN DISCUSSED THE MYSTERIOUS MISSION THAT HAD BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER...
...MY SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THIS AREA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS, CAPTAIN!
GOOD! OUR MISSION HERE IS COMPLETED AS OF NOW! OUR EQUIPMENT IS BEING DISMANTLED ...AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY HOME IN A FEW DAYS, PROFESSOR!


AHHH... IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE MY FAMILY AGAIN! HMMM... THAT'S AN ODD-LOOKING CRAFT COMING IN! WHAT IS IT... A RAFT... OR...?


GREAT BLAZES! IS THIS REAL?... IT CAN'T BE! NO... NO...


AND THEN, OUT OF THE CALM, STEPPED DISASTER... IN THE FORM OF THE MOST HORRIBLE CREATURE EVER REVEALED TO THE EYES OF A HUMAN... THE "CRAFT" STANDING UPRIGHT WAS REVEALED AS-- THE GOOL!
1

IT'S FANTASTIC... WHATEVER IT IS! ACTION, MEN!... DESTROY IT AT ONCE!!
NOTHING STOPS THE ONWARD DEATH MARCH OF THE GOOL! HEAVY CANNONS MELT INTO MOLTEN LAVA AT ITS TOUCH!
ALL THE EFFORTS TO STOP IT ARE USELESS! THE GOOL LEAVES A FIERY PATH OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH!
IT'S NO USE, SIR! WE'RE HELPLESS AGAINST THAT... THAT THING!
KEEP FIGHTING! I'VE WIRED THE NAVY! REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY!
IT'S AMAZING! IT'S... ALMOST LIKE A HUMAN BEING ... AND YET ... IT'S SO TREMENDOUS ... AND CHARGED WITH LIVE ELECTRIC POWER!
WAIT A MINUTE! IT CAME FROM NORTH OF THE ISLAND! CAPTAIN, WHAT ISLAND IS LOCATED TO OUR NORTH?
BIKINI ATOLL, PROFESSOR!
THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHAT CAUSED THE DISTURBANCE I HEARD! CAPTAIN, THAT THING, WHATEVER IT IS, CAME FROM THE INNER CORE OF THE EARTH! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TO INVESTIGATE!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INVESTIGATE, PROFESSOR, YOU'D BETTER HURRY, BECAUSE -- HERE IT COMES!
PLODDING ON, THE GOOL REACHES THE LAST REFUGE OF THE ISLAND SOLDIERS!
LOOK! IT'S DESTROYING EVERYTHING!
... AND WE'RE NEXT!
2

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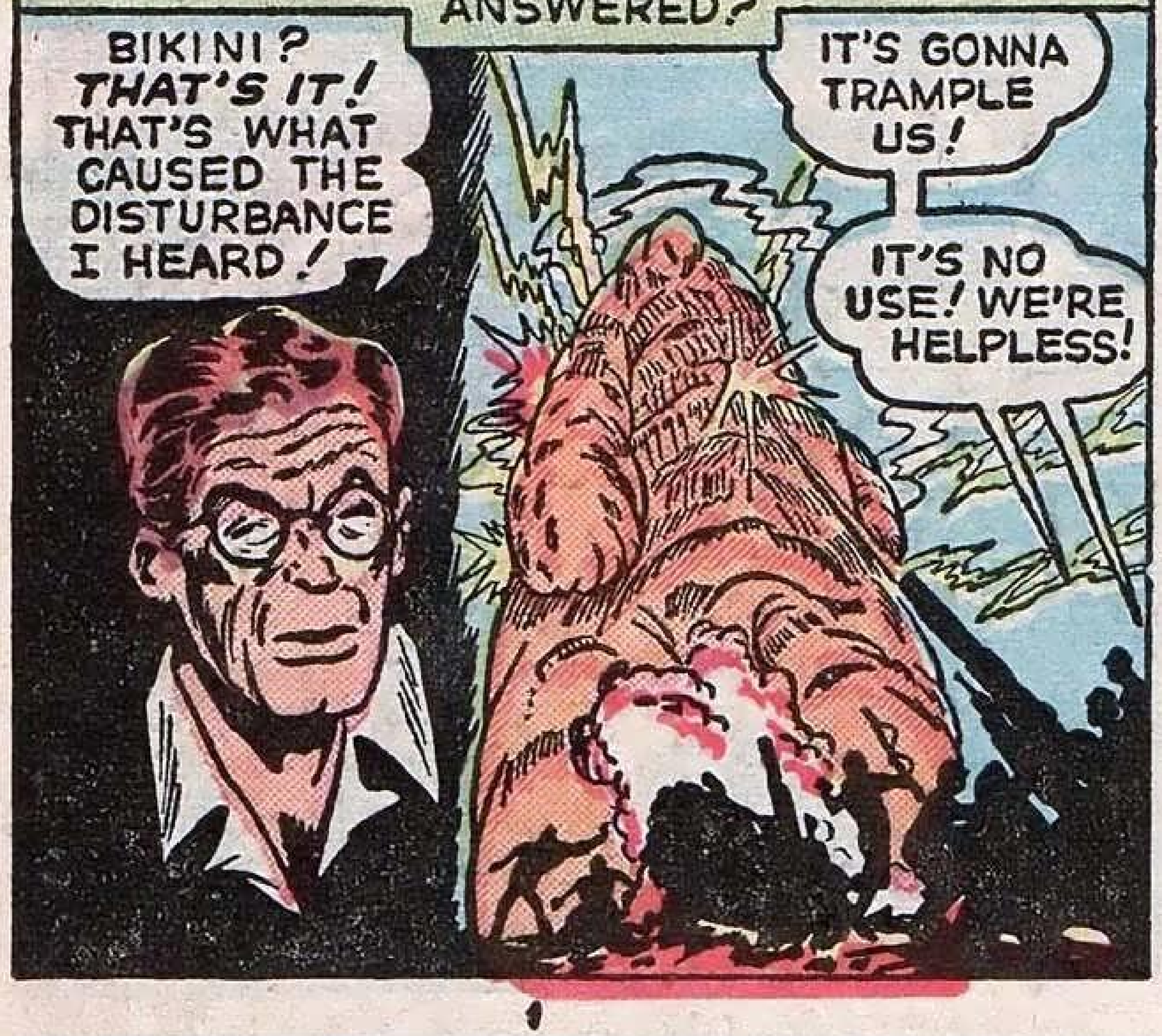
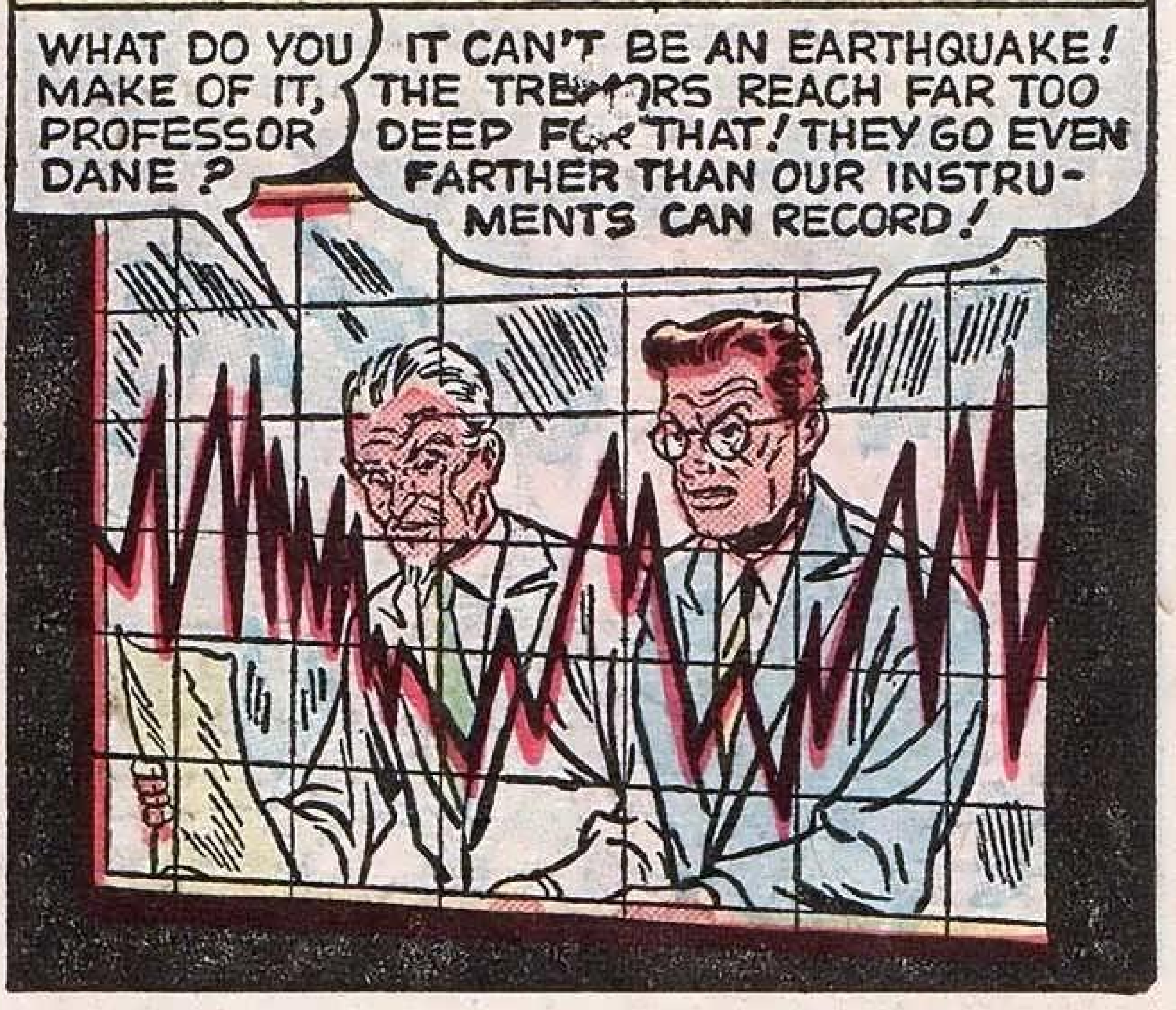
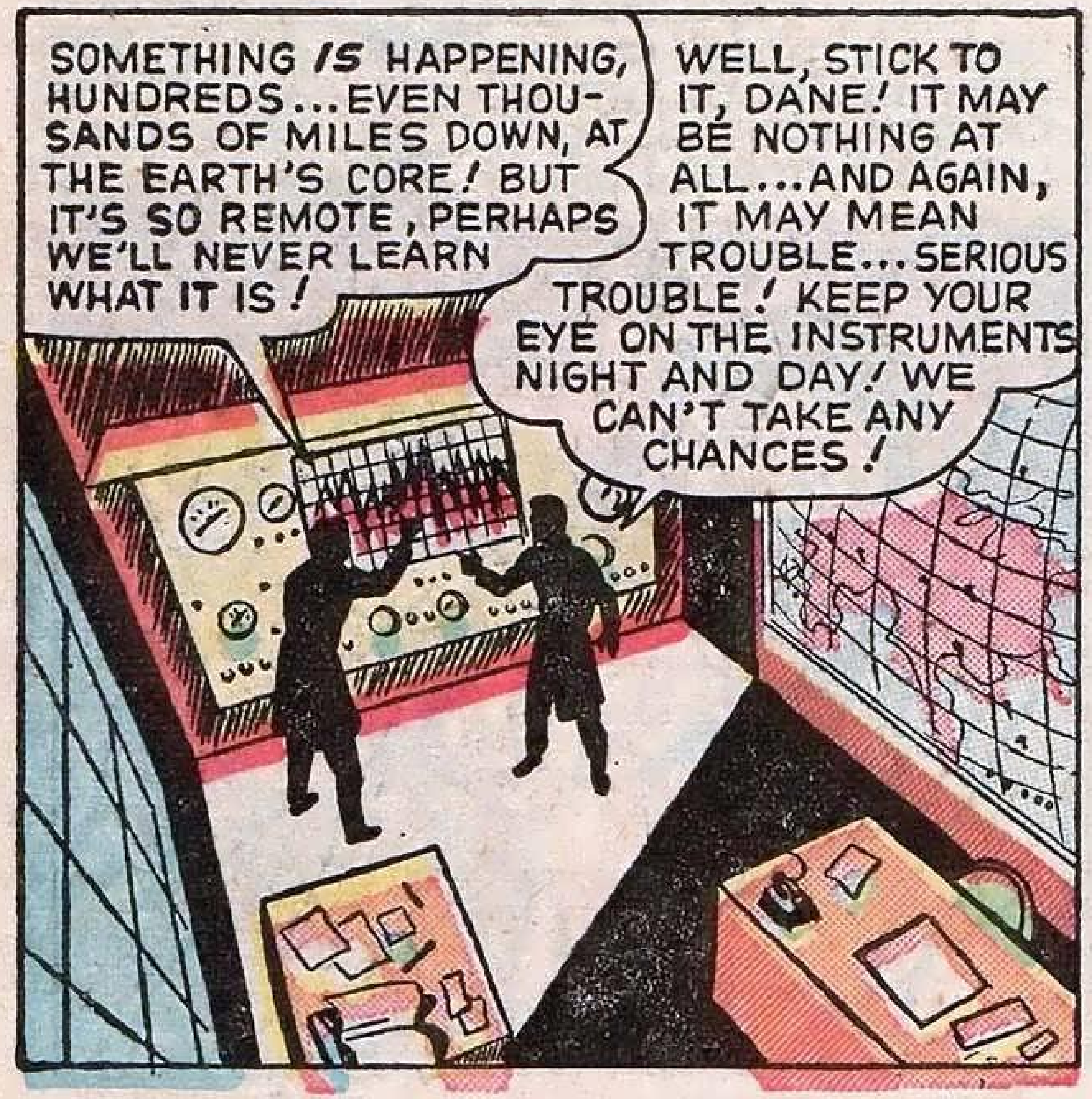
WHAT DID THIS MEAN? HOW DID THE PIECES OF THIS GIGANTIC JIGSAW FIT TOGETHER TO ANSWER THE MYSTERY... IF IT *COULD* BE ANSWERED?

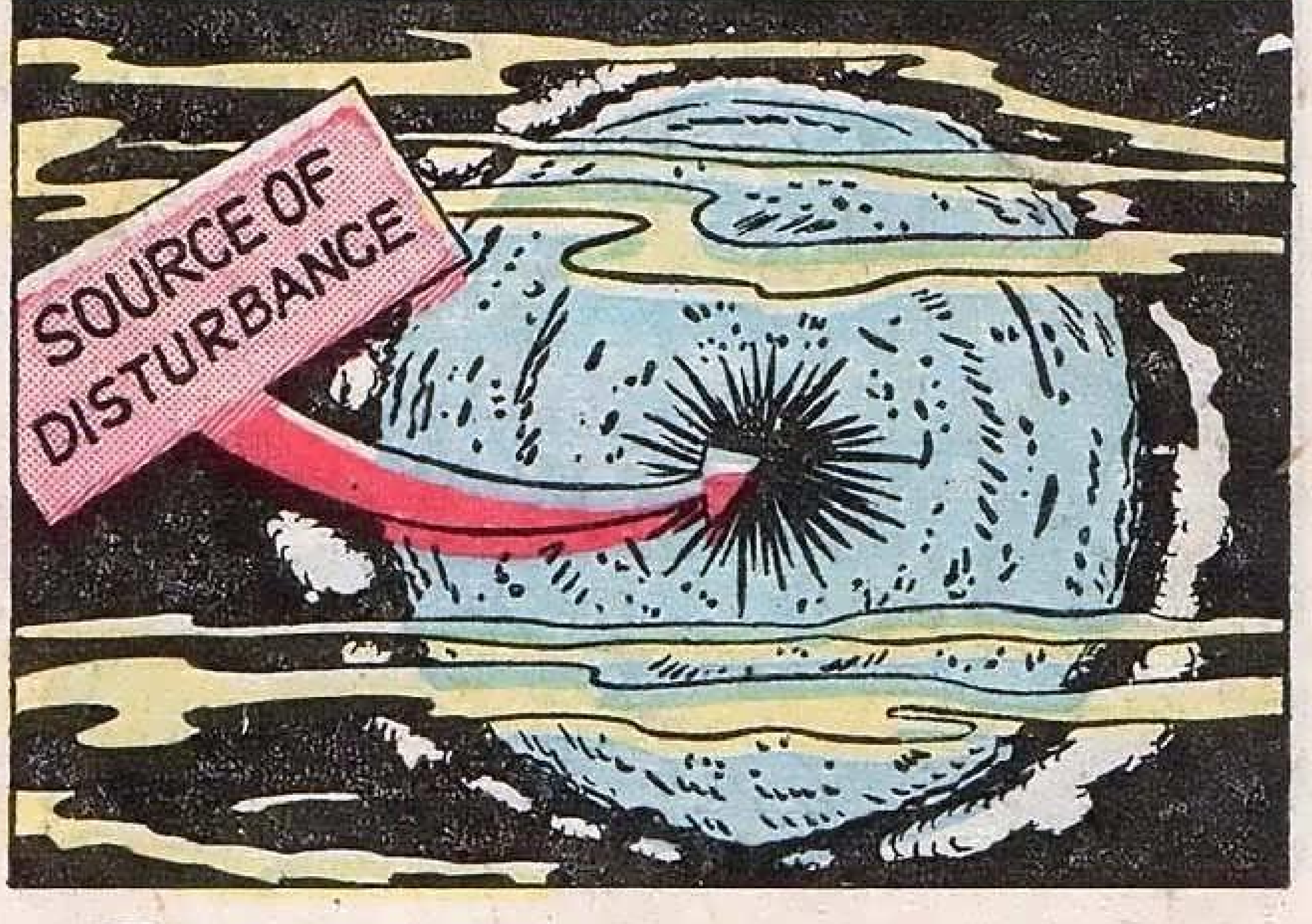

BIKINI? *THAT'S IT!* THAT'S WHAT CAUSED THE DISTURBANCE I HEARD!
IT'S GONNA TRAMPLE US!
IT'S NO USE! WE'RE HELPLESS!

TO LEARN SOMETHING OF THE ANSWER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO GO BACK A SHORT TIME... TO A LABORATORY IN SAN FRANCISCO...

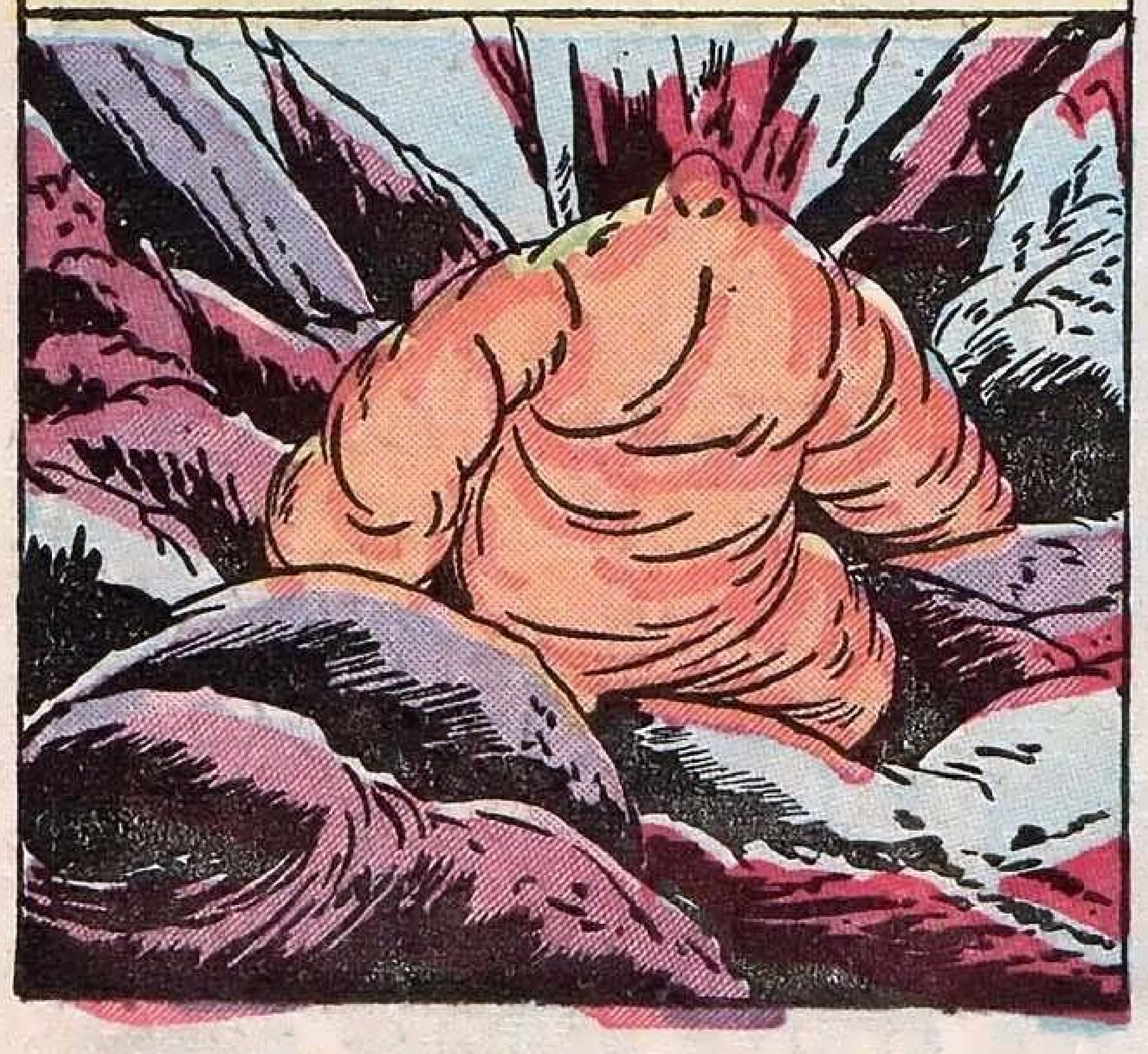

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, PROFESSOR DANE?
IT CAN'T BE AN EARTHQUAKE! THE TREMORS REACH FAR TOO DEEP FOR THAT! THEY GO EVEN FARTHER THAN OUR INSTRUMENTS CAN RECORD!


SOMETHING *IS* HAPPENING, HUNDREDS... EVEN THOUSANDS OF MILES DOWN, AT THE EARTH'S CORE! BUT IT'S SO REMOTE, PERHAPS WE'LL NEVER LEARN WHAT IT IS!
WELL, STICK TO IT, DANE! IT MAY BE NOTHING AT ALL... AND AGAIN, IT MAY MEAN TROUBLE... SERIOUS TROUBLE! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE INSTRUMENTS NIGHT AND DAY! WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES!

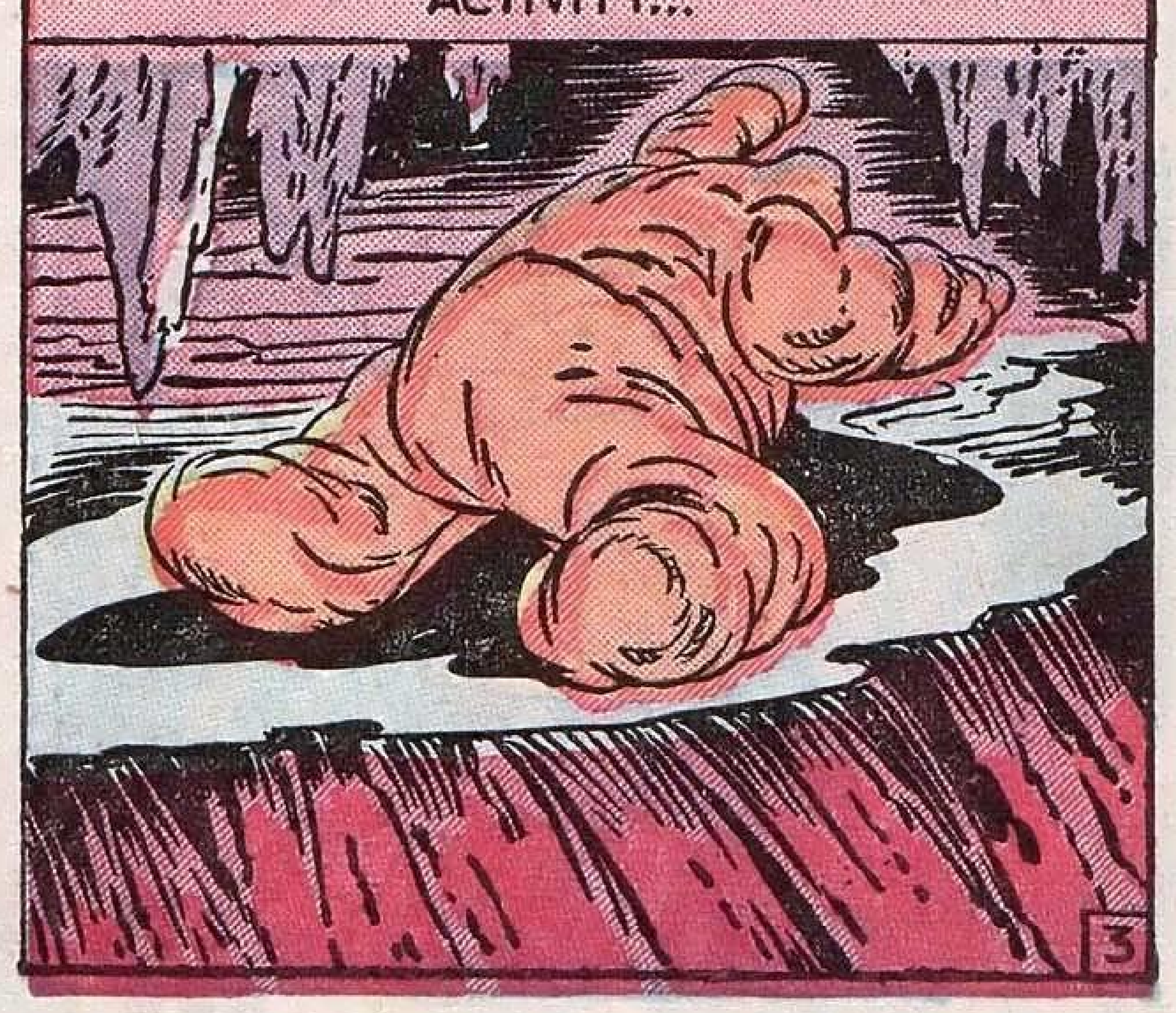
THE SCIENTISTS' SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT! DEEP DOWN IN THE VERY BOWELS OF THE EARTH, IN A SPOT THAT EVEN THE MOST MODERN INSTRUMENTS COULD NOT CONTACT--A PLACE AS REMOTE AS THE FRINGES OF ETERNITY, AN EVENT WAS HAPPENING THAT WAS TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF MANKIND!


SOURCE OF DISTURBANCE

FOR HERE, HIDDEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EARTH, LIVED A WEIRD BEING--



BLIND, SPEECHLESS, WITH NO SENSE OR INTELLIGENCE OTHER THAN A GROPING INSTINCT, THIS THING WAS STIRRING INTO A STRANGE ACTIVITY...



ITS INSTINCT, BLIND AS IT WAS, WAS STRONG... NOW. AFTER CENTURIES OF LYING DORMANT, IT WAS ON THE MOVE, IT SENSED THAT THERE WAS A WORLD BEYOND ITS OWN, AND THAT WORLD WAS *UP*... ABOVE THE MASS OF ROCK...
IT WAS THIS STIRRING ABOUT THAT REGISTERED ON THE INSTRUMENTS OF PROF. CLARK DANE...
IF I CAN ONLY FIND THE ANSWER TO THIS! EARTHQUAKE? VOLCANO?... OR *WORSE?* WHAT CAN IT BE?
ITS SAVAGE INSTINCT HAD NOW LED IT TO A DESIRE FOR CONQUEST... BY INVADING THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD IT TELEPATHICALLY FELT EXISTED ABOVE!
WHEN THE BATTLE URGE WAS AROUSED TO ITS HIGHEST PITCH, THE CREATURE ENTERED A GREAT, SCREW-SHAPED VEHICLE! THE INVASION OF THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH BY A CREATURE OF DARKNESS WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN...!
AT LAST... ALL WAS READY!... AND WITH A TREMENDOUS ROAR, THE ROCK-BORING SHIP BEGAN ITS JOURNEY OF DEATH!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT... CLARK DANE'S PANEL-BOARD REGISTERED A VIOLENT REACTION!
DOCTOR KIRBY, LOOK! THOSE ODD TREMORS ARE COMING CLOSER!
THIS IS SERIOUS, DANE! WE'VE GOT TO ALERT WASHINGTON! I'LL CALL THEM!

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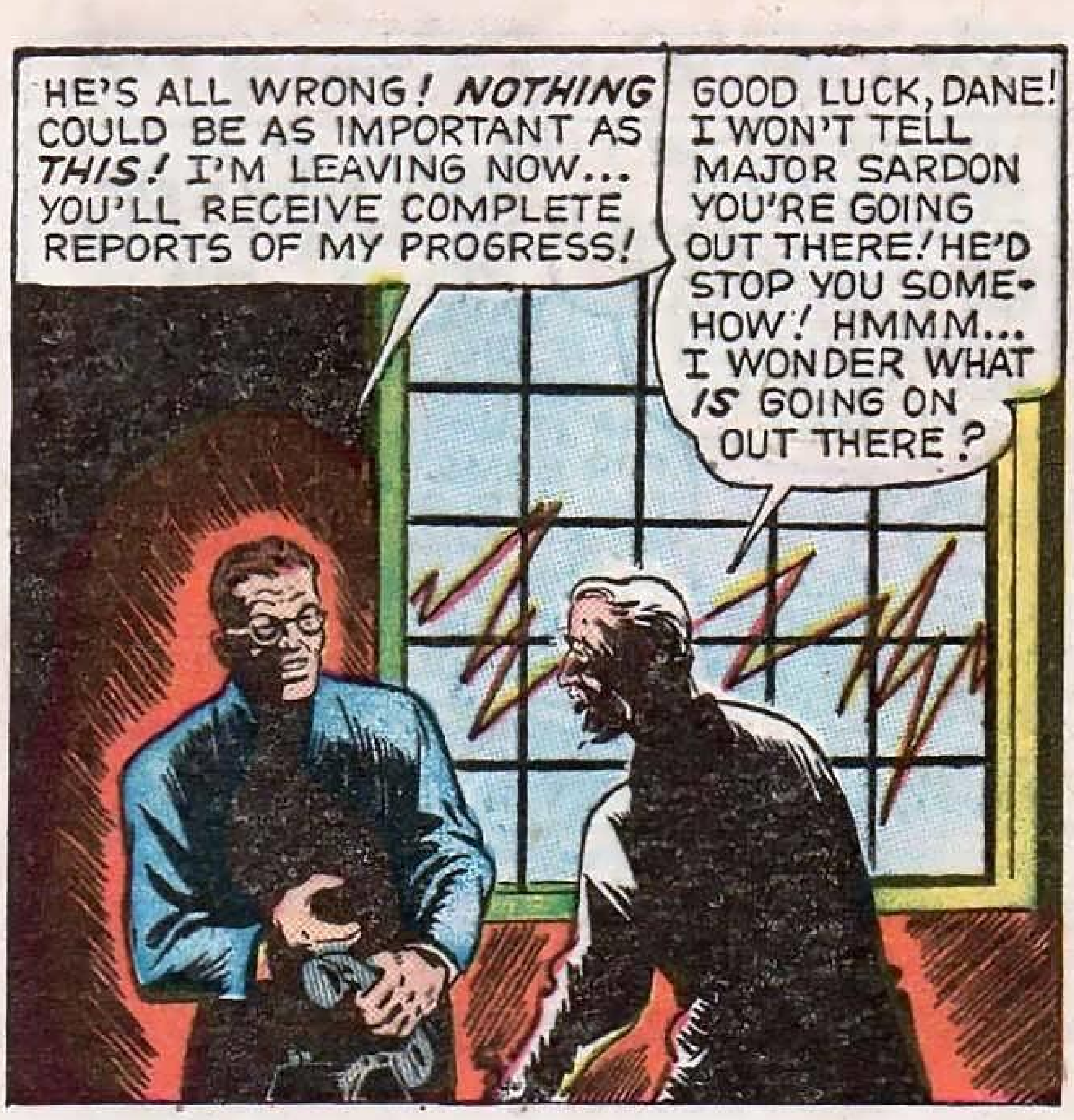
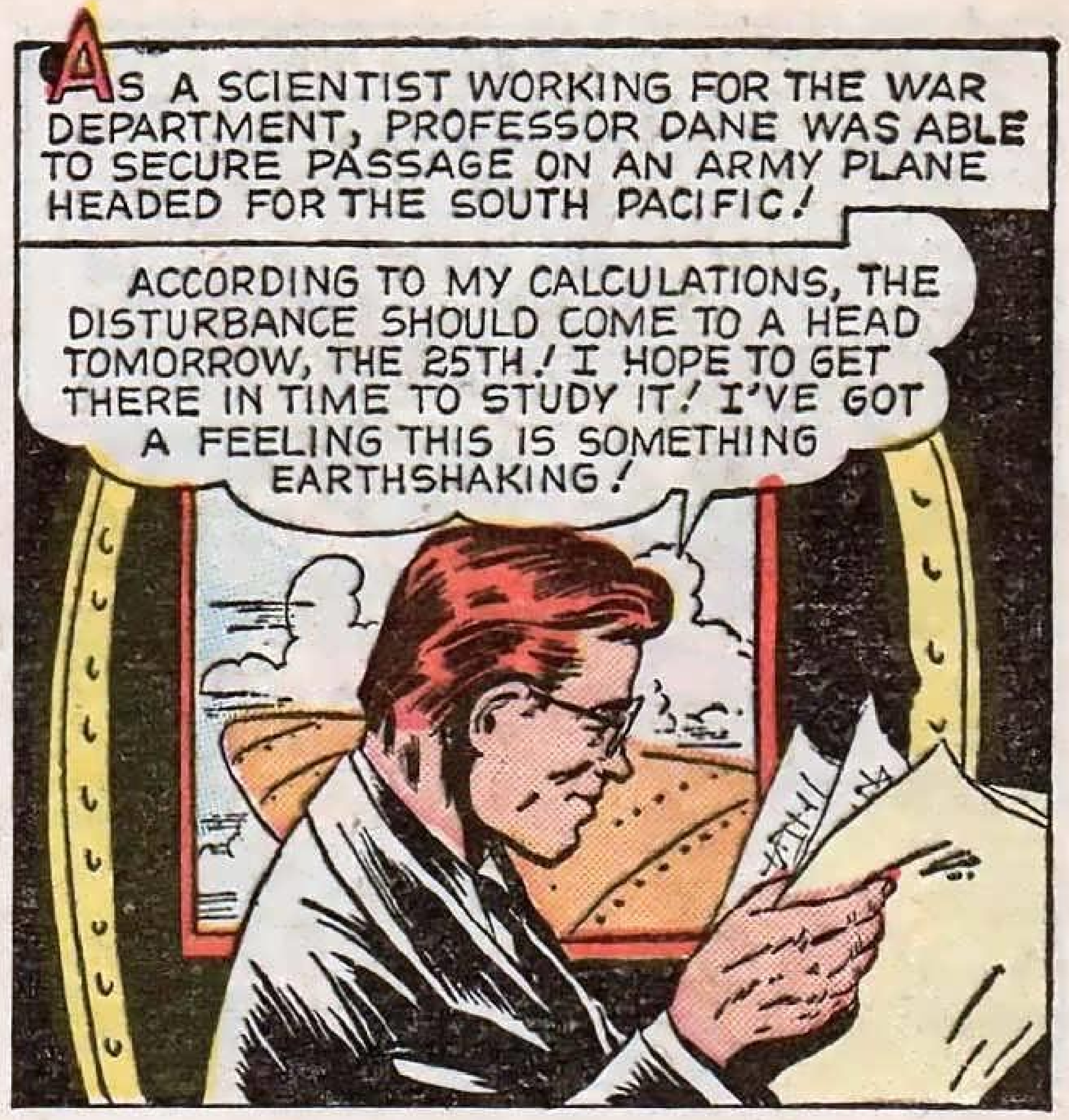
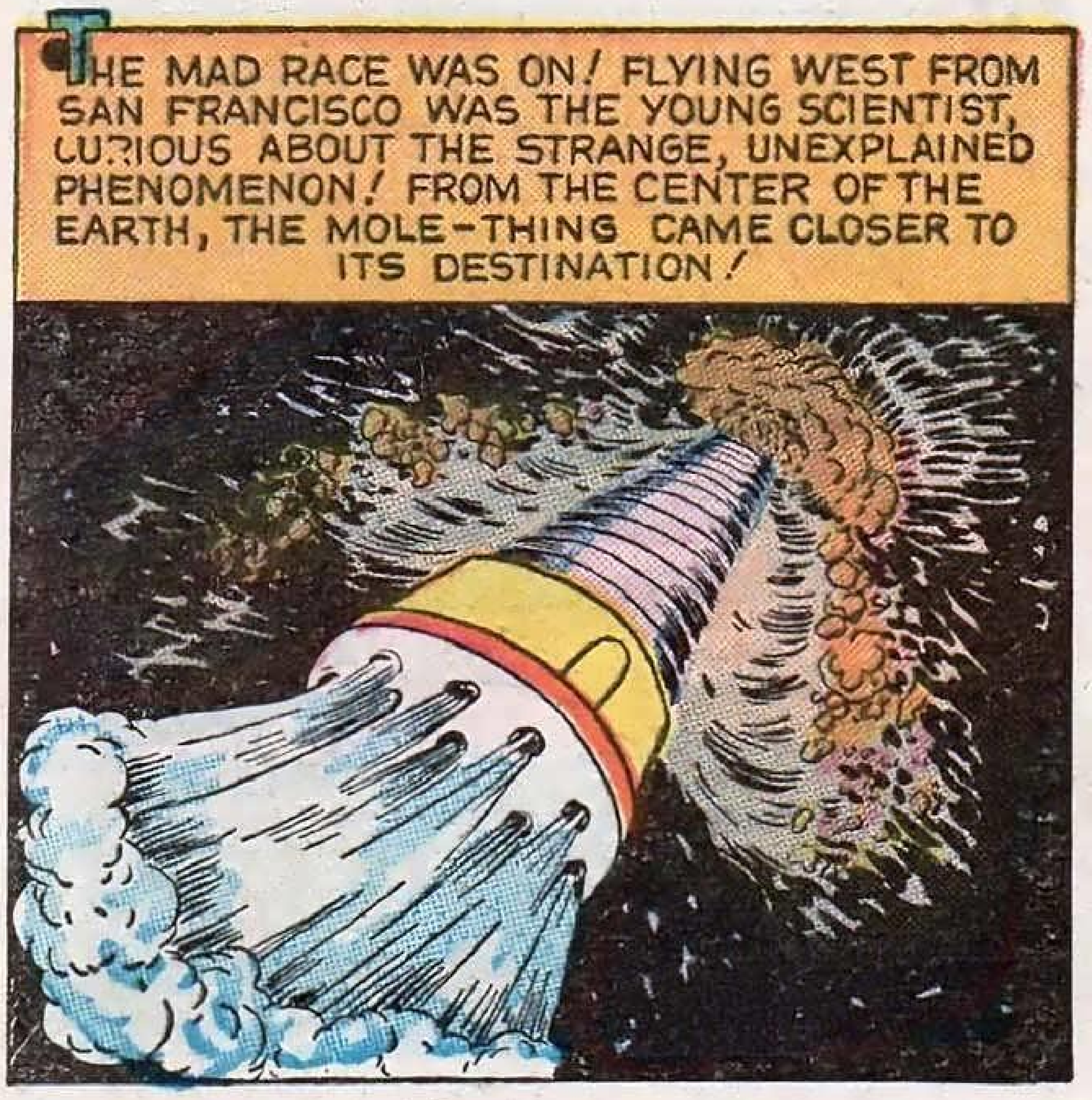
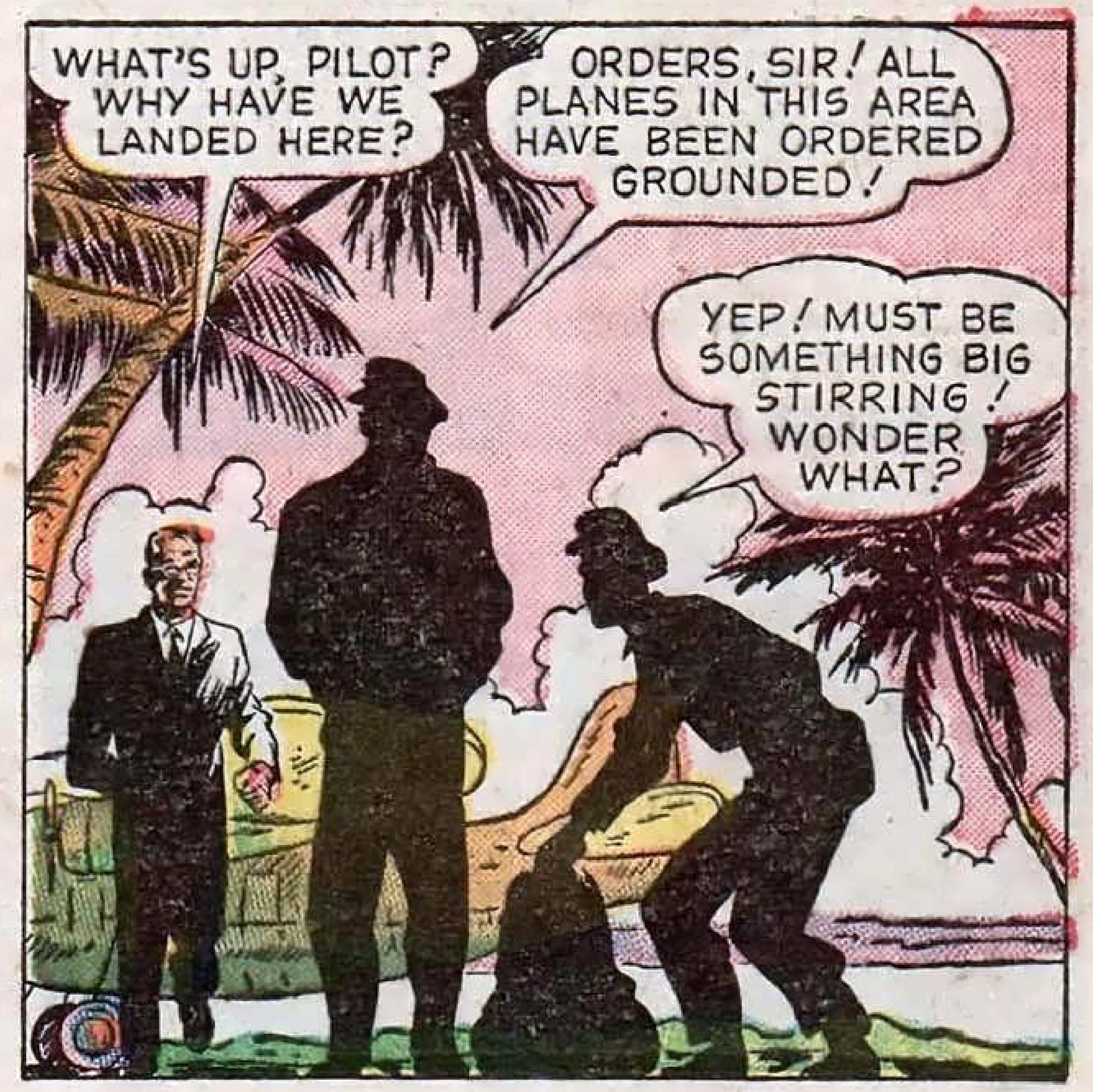
BUT THE SCIENTISTS IN WASHINGTON WERE AS PUZZLED AS DANE AND KIRBY...
NO, DOCTOR KIRBY, WE CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, EITHER! THE INDICATIONS HERE ARE VERY FAINT!
THEY'RE STRONG HERE... AND GETTING STRONGER BY THE HOUR!
DOCTOR KIRBY!
JUST A MINUTE, SIR!
HERE! THE TREMORS ARE CENTERING IN ONE AREA! WHATEVER IS COMING UP WILL ERUPT THERE... AT THAT SPOT!
THAT'S BIKINI ATOLL!
DOCTOR KIRBY... I HEARD THAT! THIS IS AMAZING--A VERY ODD COINCIDENCE!
WHAT? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, SIR?
IT'S TRULY STRANGE THAT THE DISTURBANCE SHOULD BE RECORDED THERE AND AT THIS TIME!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE SURFACE COMES THE SHIP OF THE MOLE-THINGS!
LET ME AT THAT PHONE, DOCTOR!... MAJOR SARDON, THIS IS PROFESSOR DANE! SOMETHING STUPENDOUS IS GOING TO ERUPT ON JULY 25, 1946! I'M GOING TO FLY OUT THERE AT ONCE TO OBSERVE IT!
SORRY, DANE! IT CAN'T BE DONE! THAT PARTICULAR AREA IS RESTRICTED AT THIS TIME...
BUT I MUST GET THERE! THE SIGNALS OF THE DISTURBANCES ARE GROWING VERY STRONG! THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN THERE MAY BE VERY DISASTROUS!
CALM YOURSELF, PROFESSOR DANE! SOMETHING ELSE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE OUT THERE... SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOUR PROBLEM SEEM SMALL BY COMPARISON!

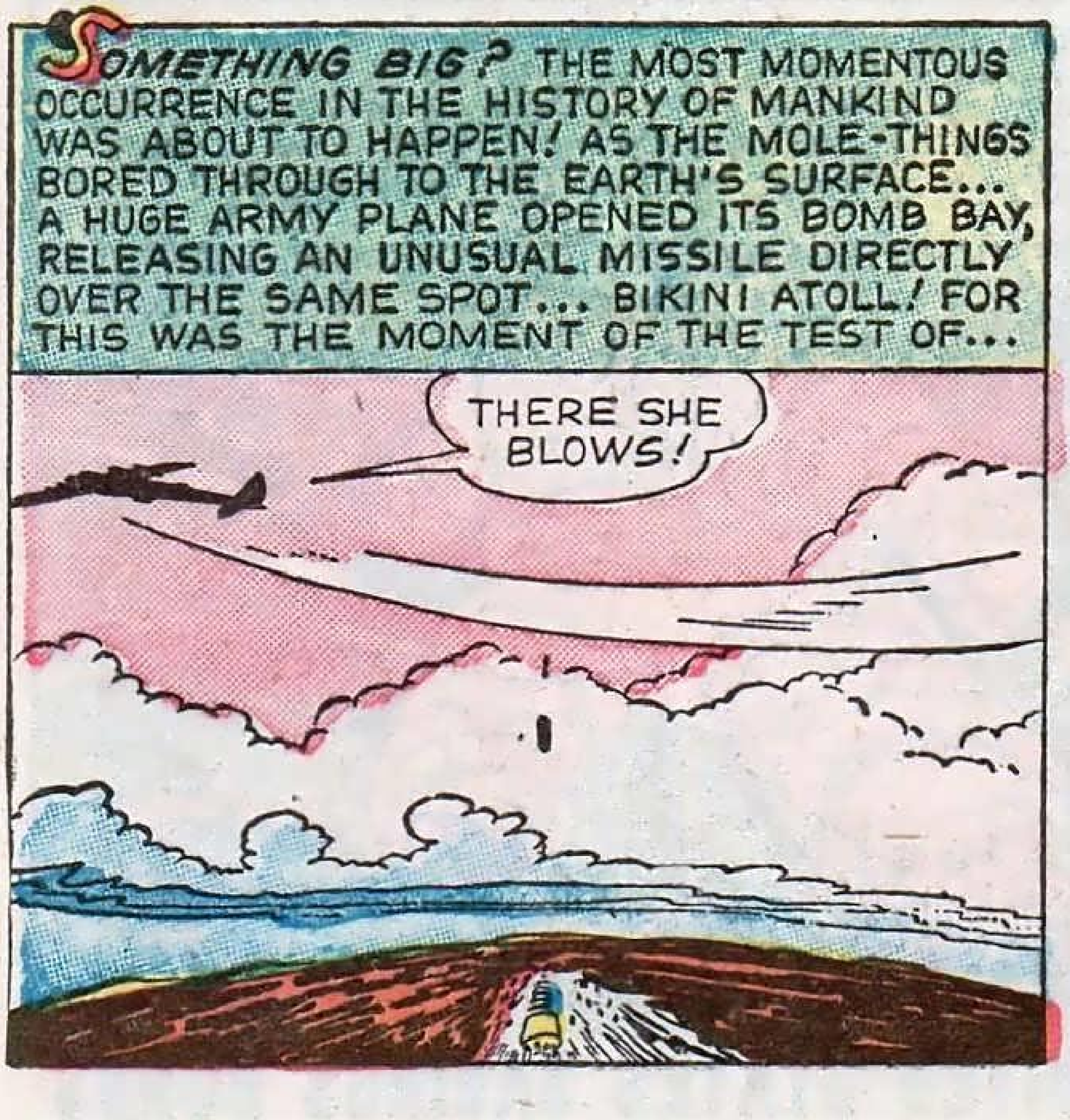

HE'S ALL WRONG! *NOTHING* COULD BE AS IMPORTANT AS *THIS!* I'M LEAVING NOW... YOU'LL RECEIVE COMPLETE REPORTS OF MY PROGRESS!
GOOD LUCK, DANE! I WON'T TELL MAJOR SARDON YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE! HE'D STOP YOU SOMEHOW! HMMM... I WONDER WHAT *IS* GOING ON OUT THERE?


AS A SCIENTIST WORKING FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT, PROFESSOR DANE WAS ABLE TO SECURE PASSAGE ON AN ARMY PLANE HEADED FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC!

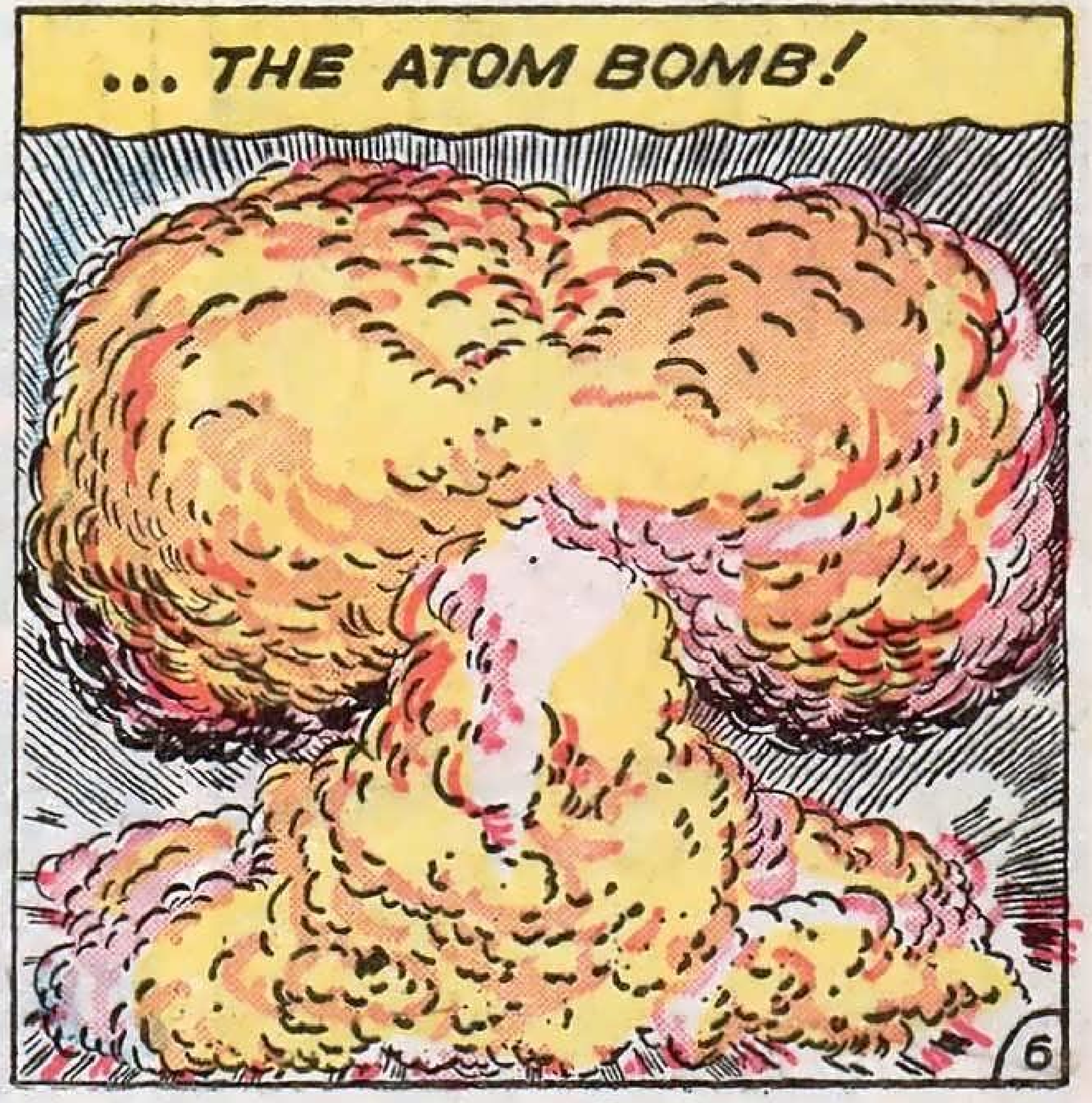
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE DISTURBANCE SHOULD COME TO A HEAD TOMORROW, THE 25TH! I HOPE TO GET THERE IN TIME TO STUDY IT! I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IS SOMETHING EARTHSHAKING!

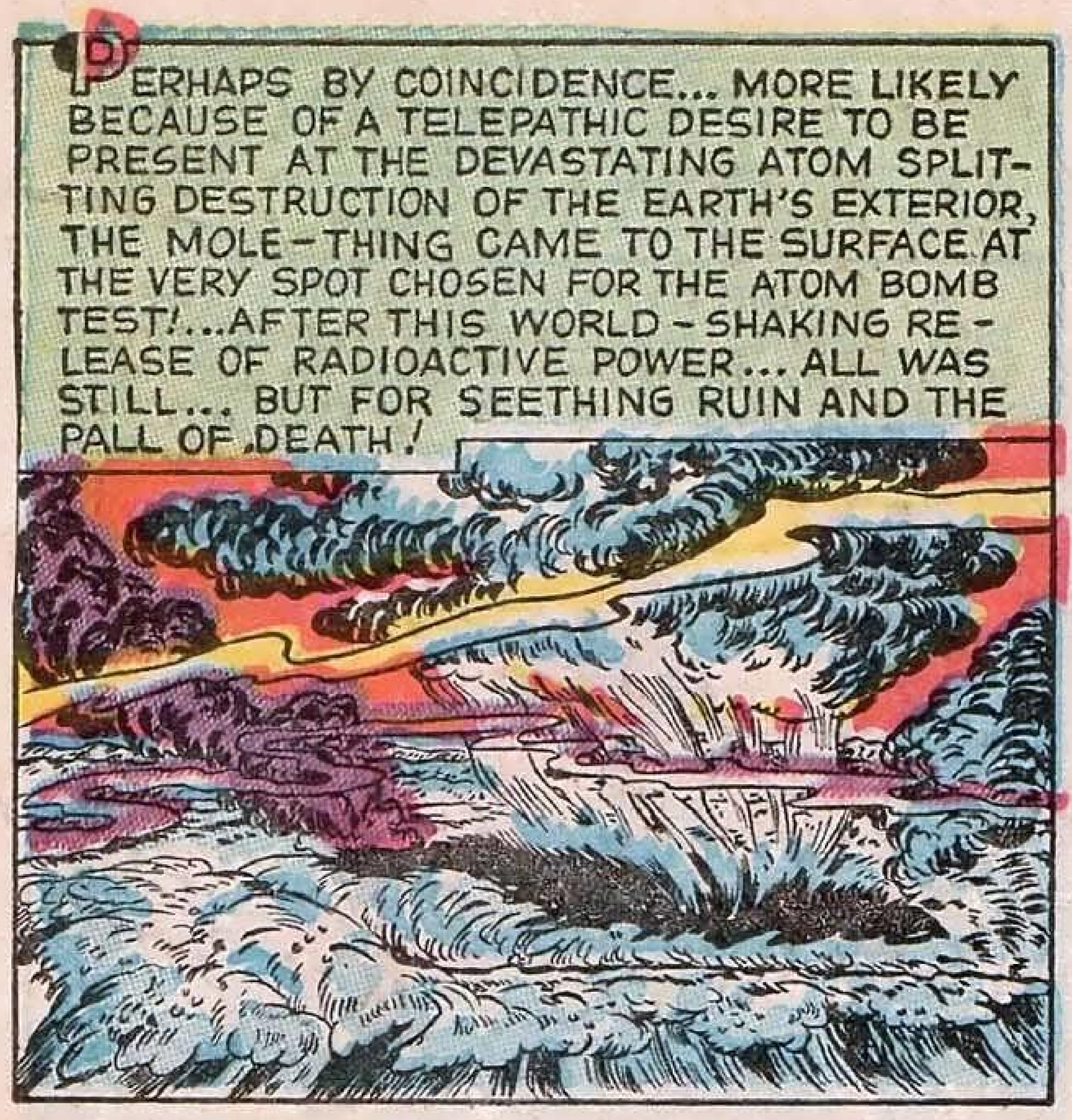

THE MAD RACE WAS ON! FLYING WEST FROM SAN FRANCISCO WAS THE YOUNG SCIENTIST, CURIOUS ABOUT THE STRANGE, UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENON! FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, THE MOLE-THING CAME CLOSER TO ITS DESTINATION!

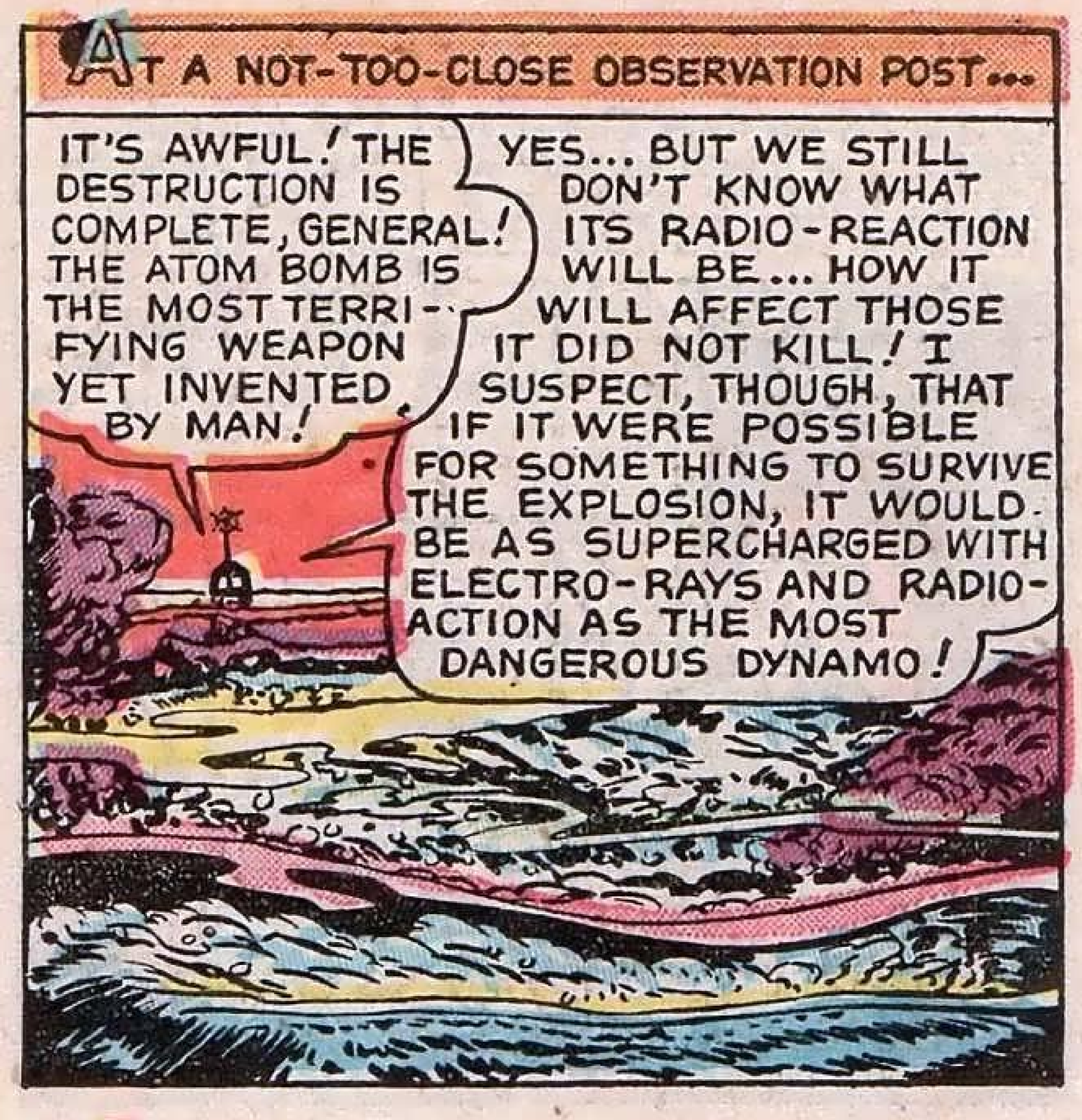

WHAT'S UP, PILOT? WHY HAVE WE LANDED HERE?
ORDERS, SIR! ALL PLANES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN ORDERED GROUNDED!
YEP! MUST BE SOMETHING BIG STIRRING! WONDER WHAT?

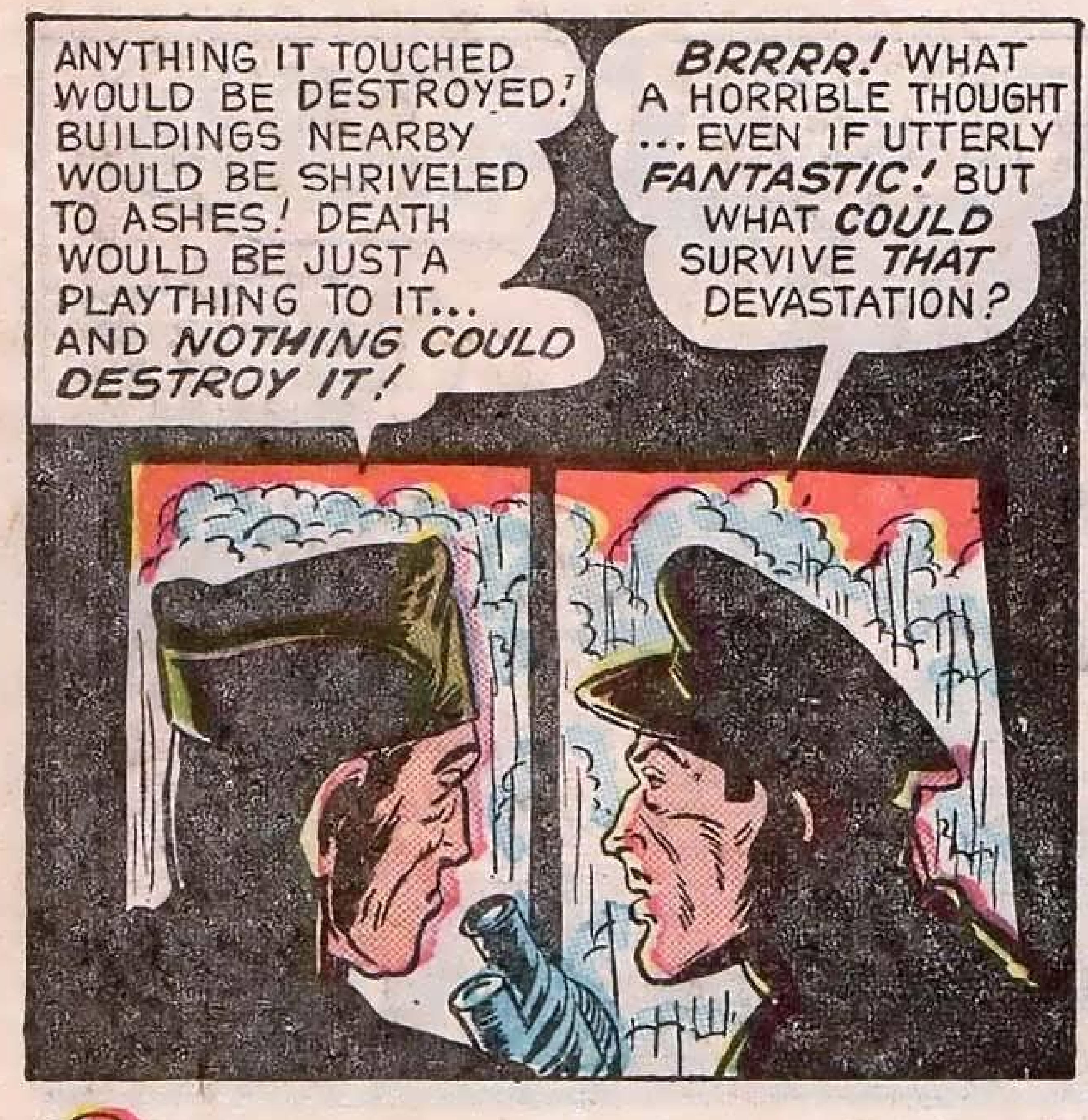

SOMETHING BIG? THE MOST MOMENTOUS OCCURRENCE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! AS THE MOLE-THINGS BORED THROUGH TO THE EARTH'S SURFACE... A HUGE ARMY PLANE OPENED ITS BOMB BAY, RELEASING AN UNUSUAL MISSILE DIRECTLY OVER THE SAME SPOT... BIKINI ATOLL! FOR THIS WAS THE MOMENT OF THE TEST OF...

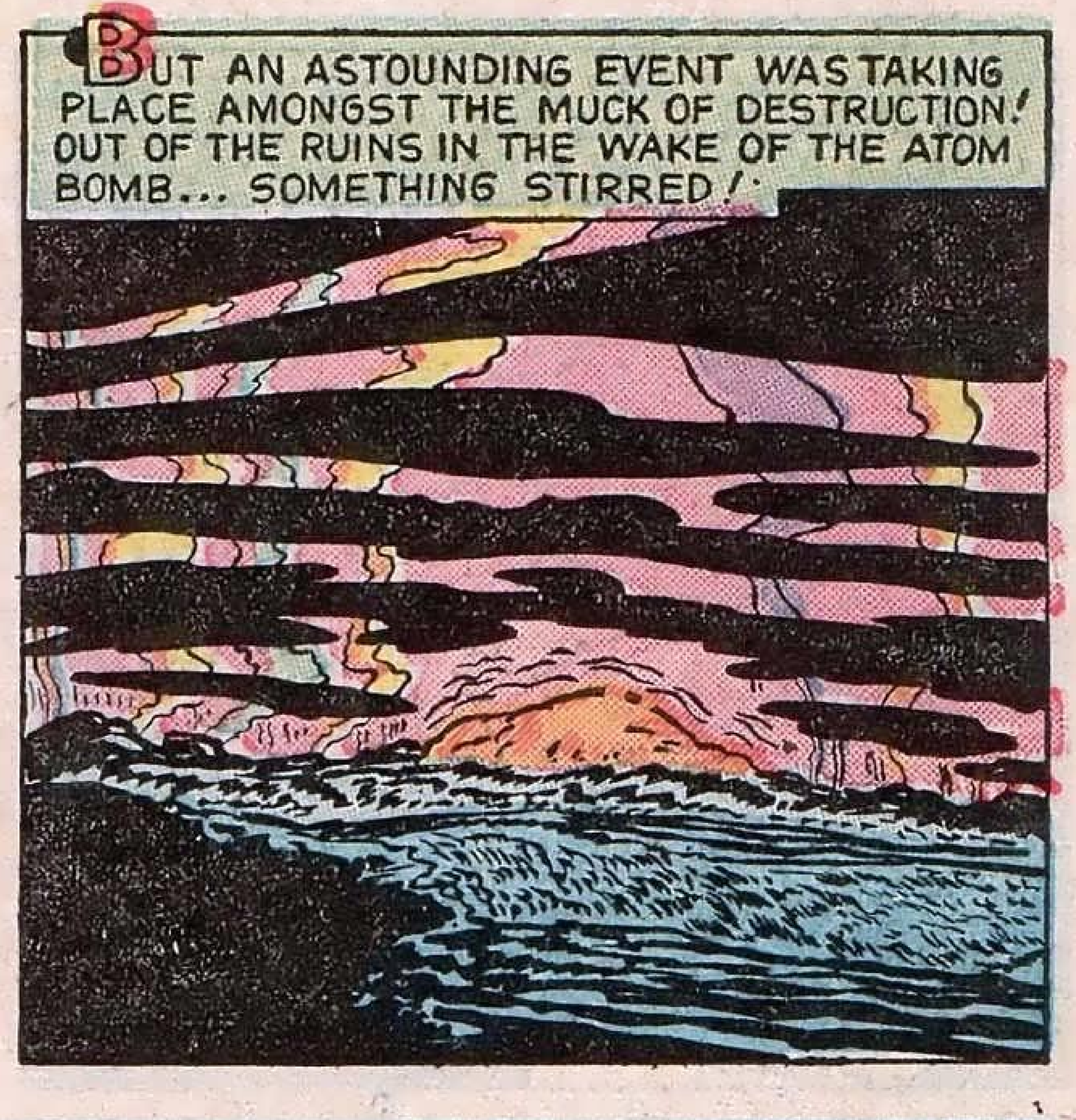
THERE SHE BLOWS!

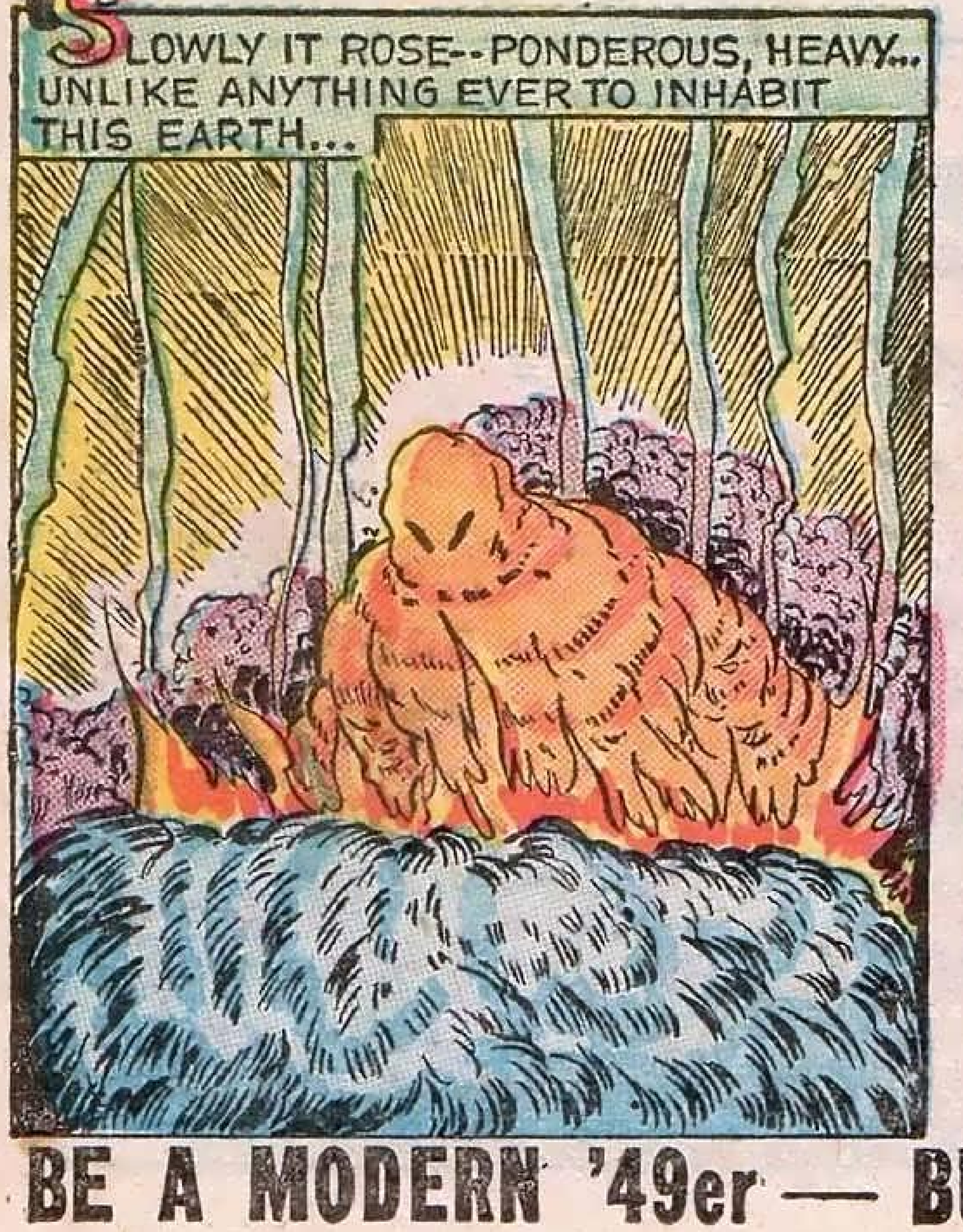

... THE ATOM BOMB!

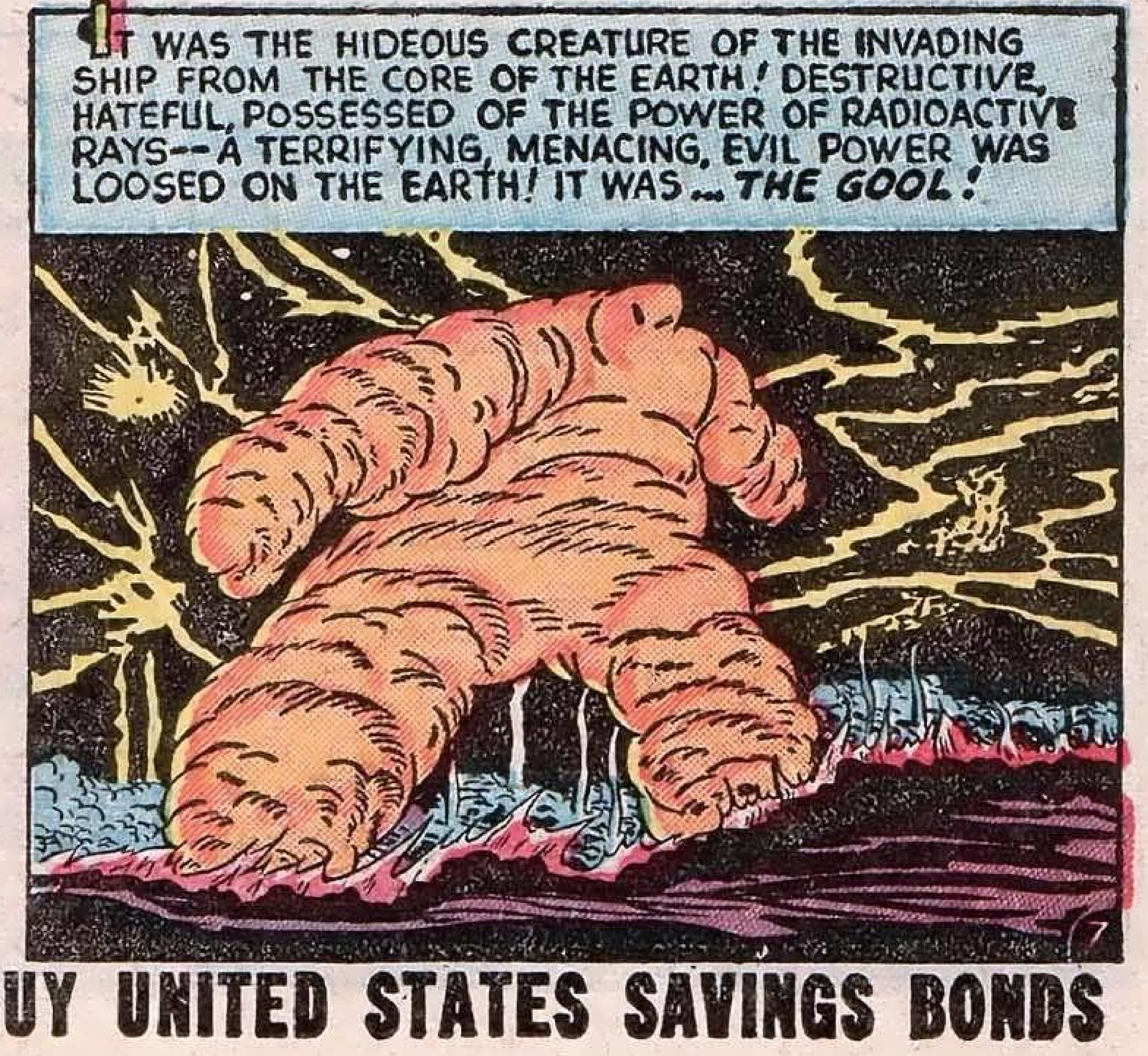

PERHAPS BY COINCIDENCE... MORE LIKELY BECAUSE OF A TELEPATHIC DESIRE TO BE PRESENT AT THE DEVASTATING ATOM SPLITTING DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH'S EXTERIOR, THE MOLE-THING CAME TO THE SURFACE AT THE VERY SPOT CHOSEN FOR THE ATOM BOMB TEST!...AFTER THIS WORLD-SHAKING RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVE POWER... ALL WAS STILL... BUT FOR SEETHING RUIN AND THE PALL OF DEATH!


AT A NOT-TOO-CLOSE OBSERVATION POST...
IT'S AWFUL! THE DESTRUCTION IS COMPLETE, GENERAL! THE ATOM BOMB IS THE MOST TERRIFYING WEAPON YET INVENTED BY MAN!
YES... BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT ITS RADIO-REACTION WILL BE... HOW IT WILL AFFECT THOSE IT DID NOT KILL! I SUSPECT, THOUGH, THAT IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR SOMETHING TO SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION, IT WOULD BE AS SUPERCHARGED WITH ELECTRO-RAYS AND RADIO-ACTION AS THE MOST DANGEROUS DYNAMO!


ANYTHING IT TOUCHED WOULD BE DESTROYED! BUILDINGS NEARBY WOULD BE SHRIVELED TO ASHES! DEATH WOULD BE JUST A PLAYTHING TO IT... AND NOTHING COULD DESTROY IT!
BRRRR! WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT ...EVEN IF UTTERLY FANTASTIC! BUT WHAT COULD SURVIVE THAT DEVASTATION?


BUT AN ASTOUNDING EVENT WAS TAKING PLACE AMONGST THE MUCK OF DESTRUCTION! OUT OF THE RUINS IN THE WAKE OF THE ATOM BOMB... SOMETHING STIRRED!


SLOWLY IT ROSE--PONDEROUS, HEAVY... UNLIKE ANYTHING EVER TO INHABIT THIS EARTH...


IT WAS THE HIDEOUS CREATURE OF THE INVADING SHIP FROM THE CORE OF THE EARTH! DESTRUCTIVE, HATEFUL, POSSESSED OF THE POWER OF RADIOACTIVE RAYS--A TERRIFYING, MENACING, EVIL POWER WAS LOOSED ON THE EARTH! IT WAS... THE GOOL!

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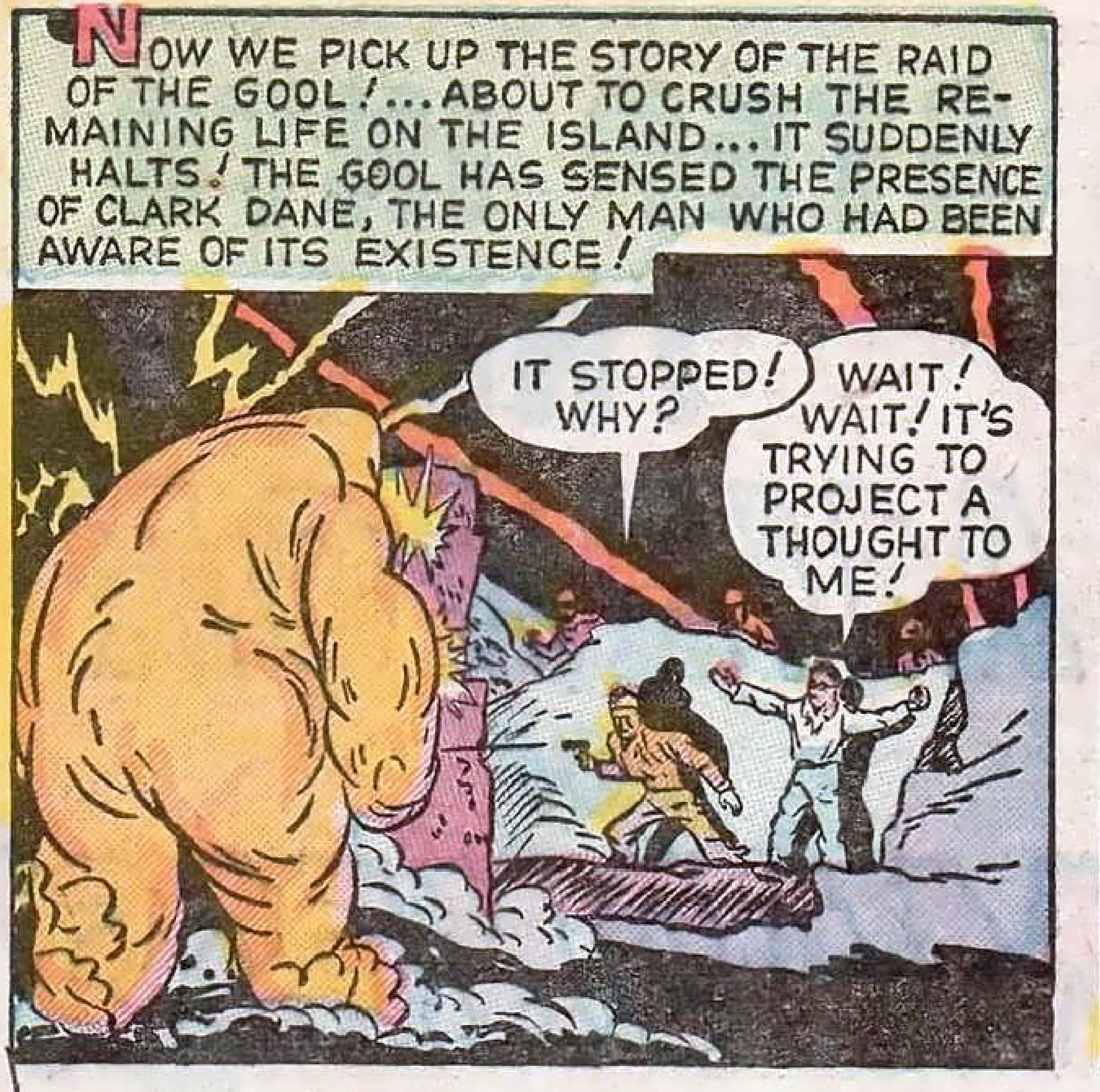
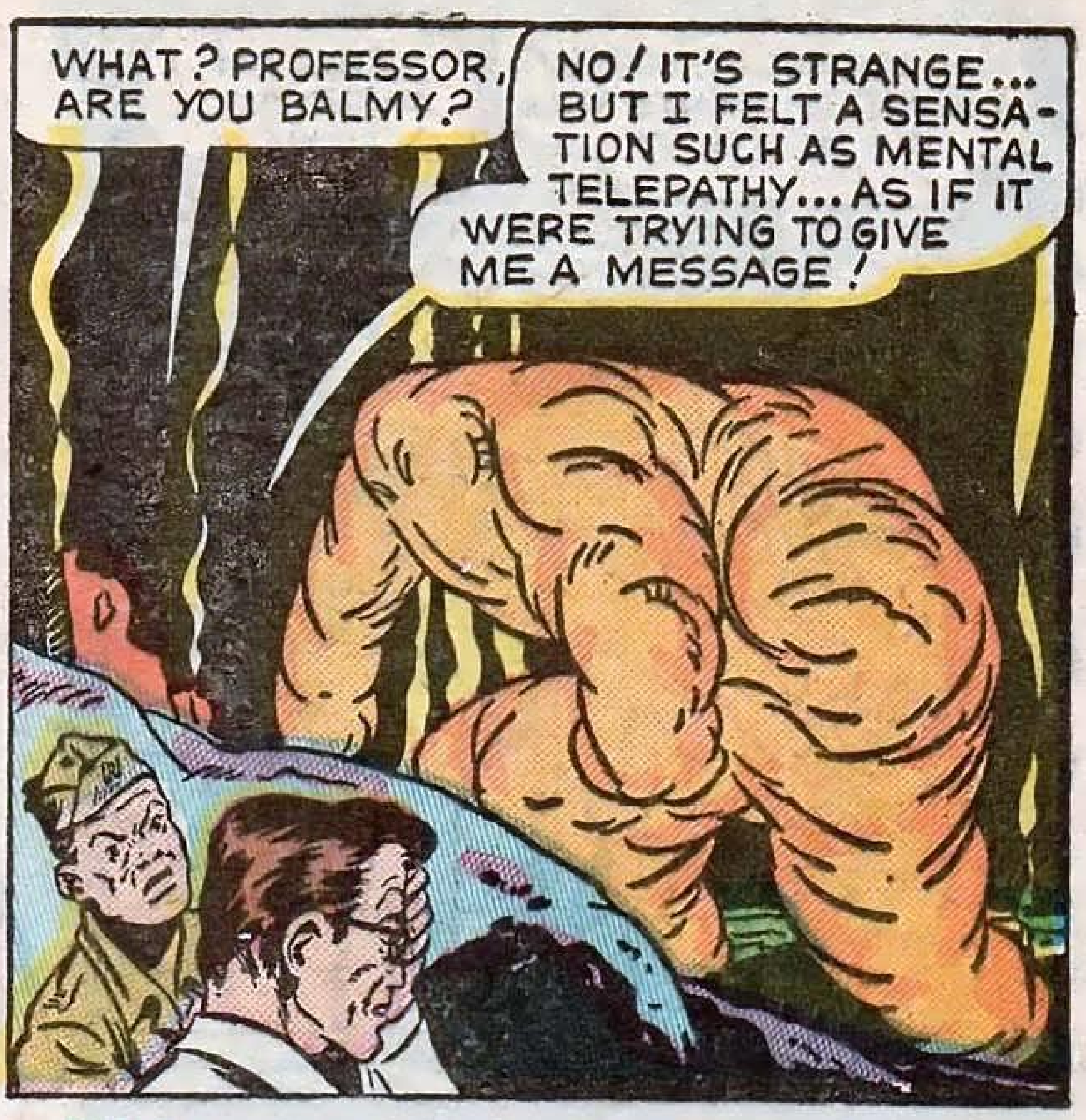
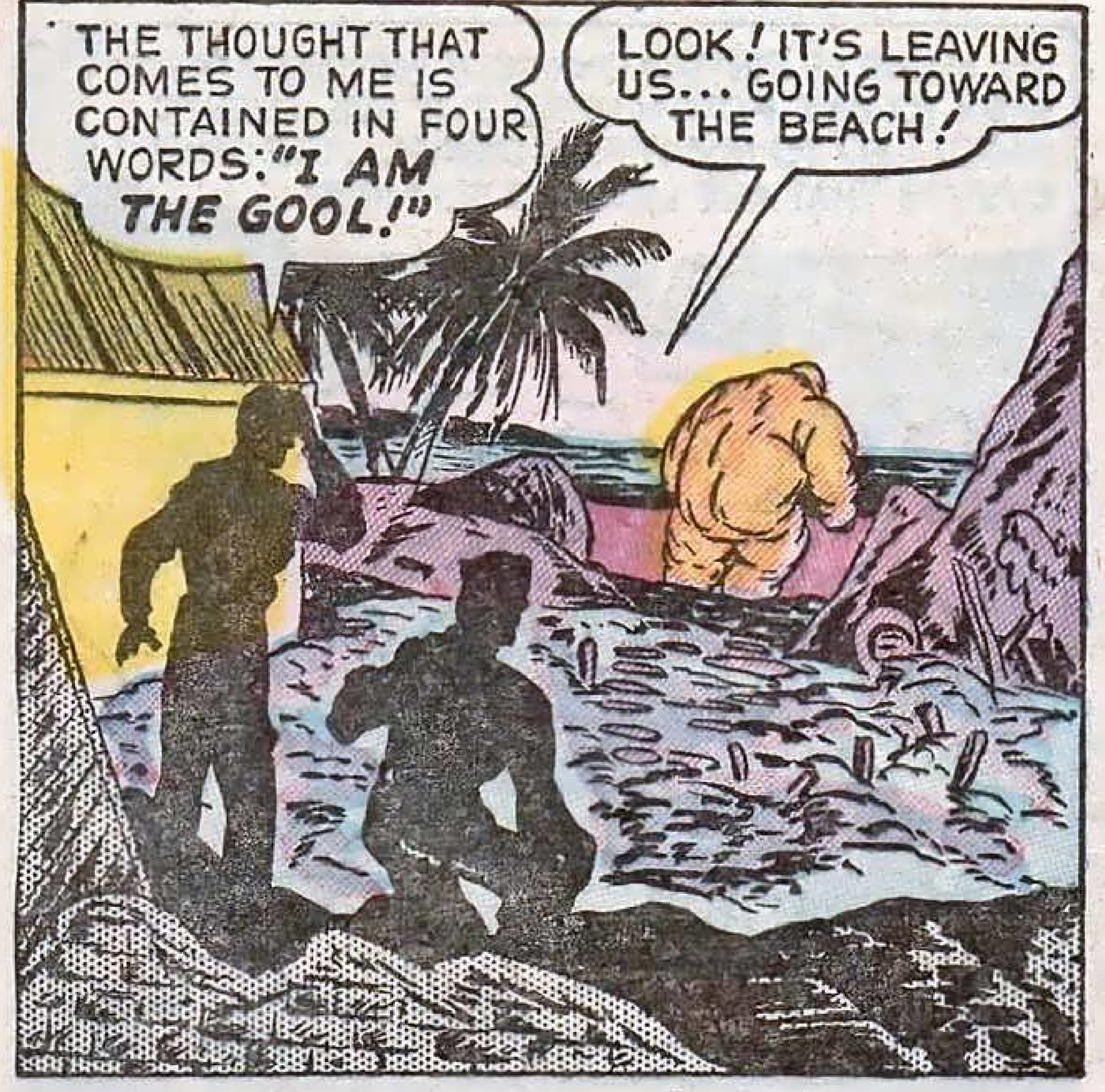
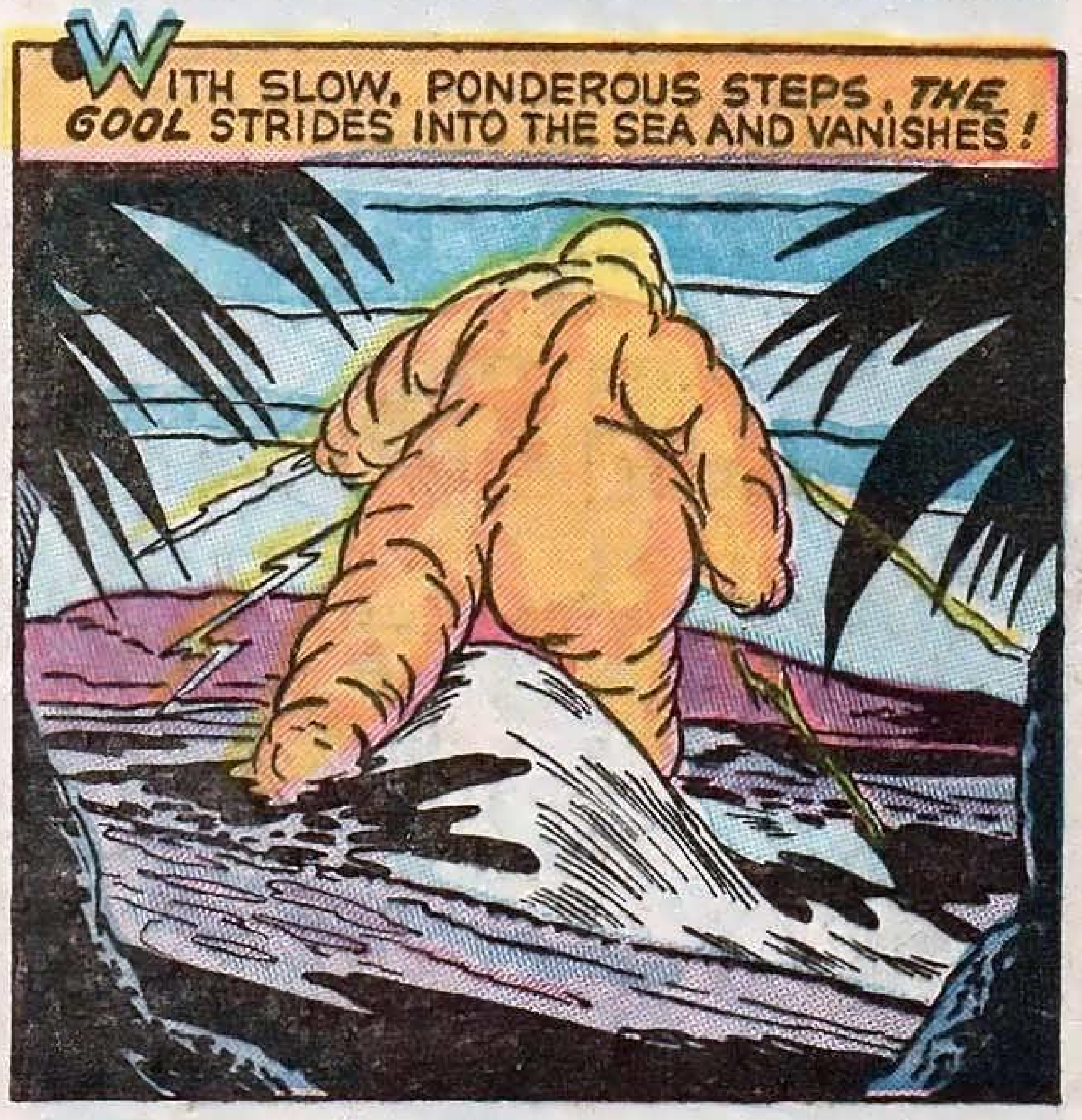
NOW WE PICK UP THE STORY OF THE RAID OF THE GOOL!... ABOUT TO CRUSH THE REMAINING LIFE ON THE ISLAND... IT SUDDENLY HALTS! THE GOOL HAS SENSED THE PRESENCE OF CLARK DANE, THE ONLY MAN WHO HAD BEEN AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE!

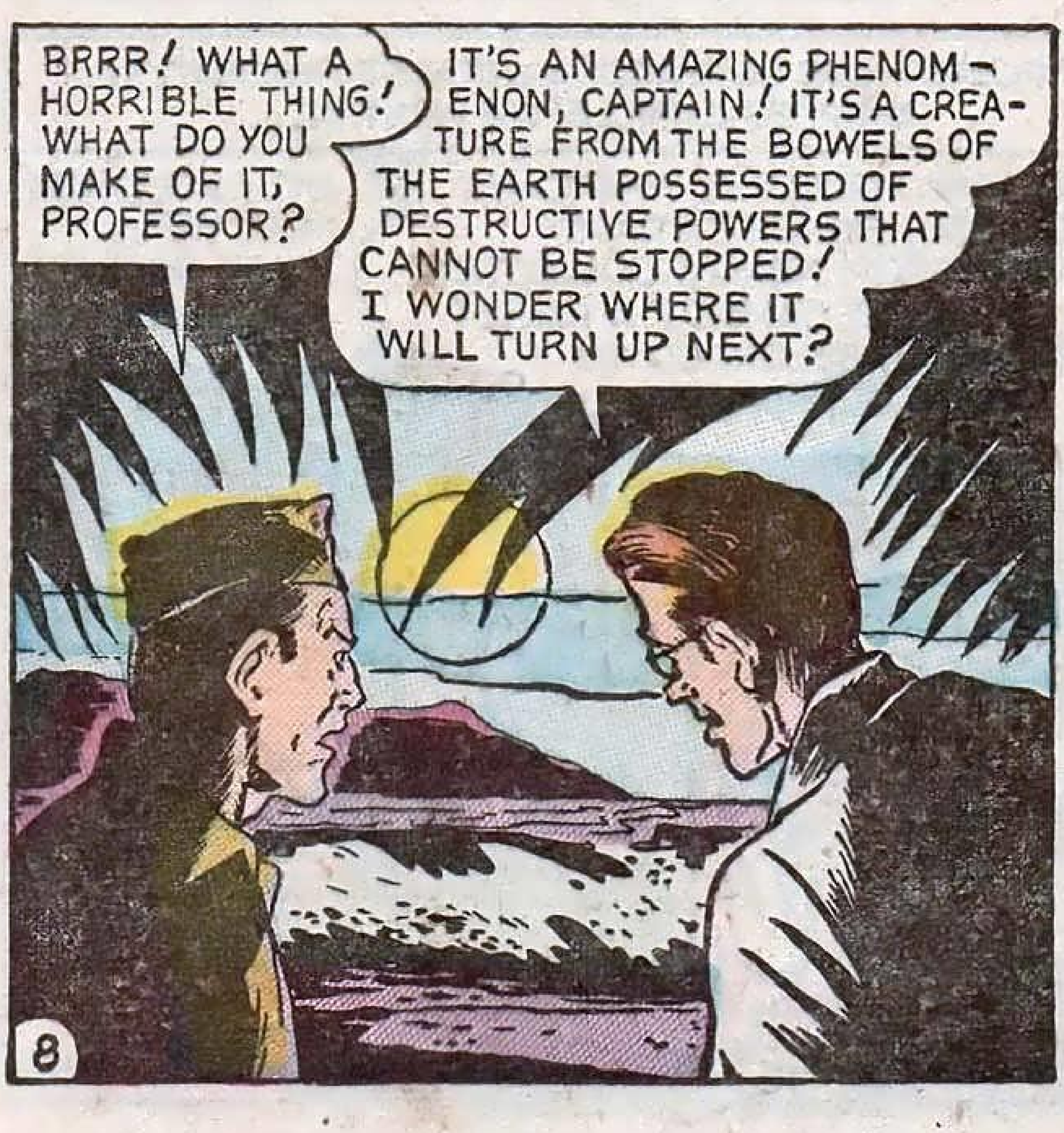

IT STOPPED! WHY?
WAIT! WAIT! IT'S TRYING TO PROJECT A THOUGHT TO ME!


WHAT? PROFESSOR, ARE YOU BALMY?
NO! IT'S STRANGE... BUT I FELT A SENSATION SUCH AS MENTAL TELEPATHY... AS IF IT WERE TRYING TO GIVE ME A MESSAGE!

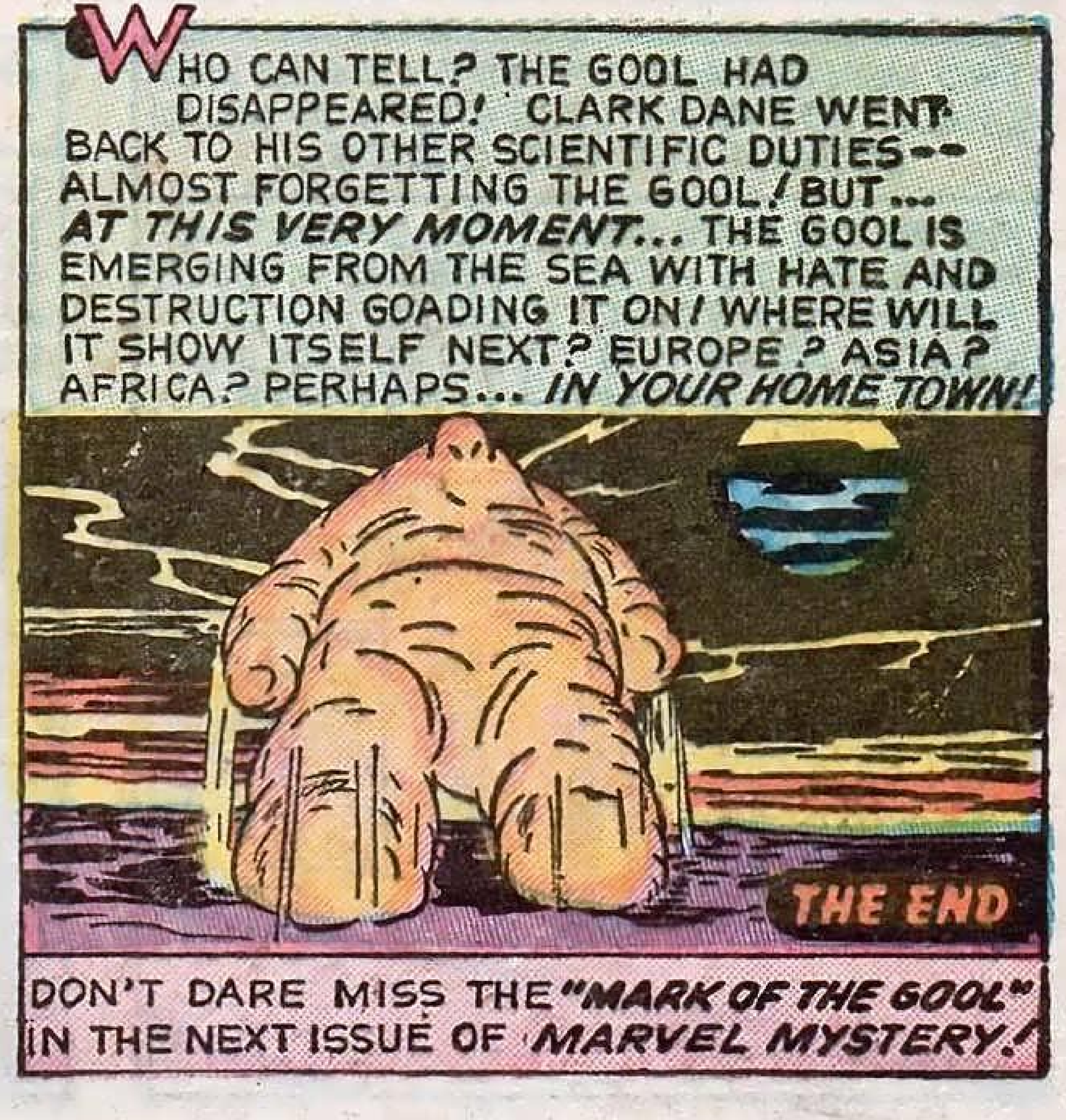

THE THOUGHT THAT COMES TO ME IS CONTAINED IN FOUR WORDS: "I AM THE GOOL!"
LOOK! IT'S LEAVING US... GOING TOWARD THE BEACH!

WITH SLOW, PONDEROUS STEPS, *THE GOOL* STRIDES INTO THE SEA AND VANISHES!

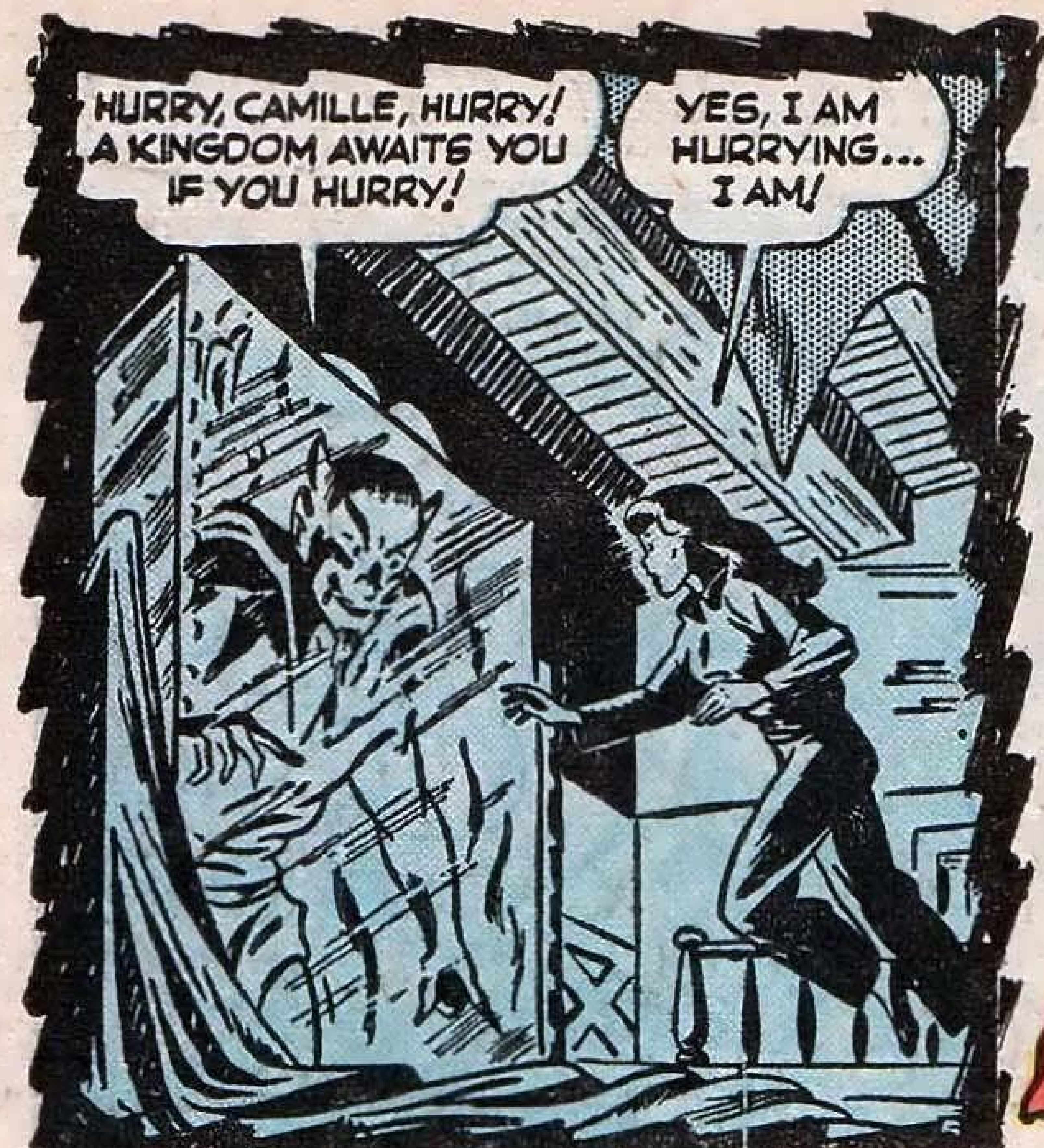



BRRR! WHAT A HORRIBLE THING! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, PROFESSOR?
IT'S AN AMAZING PHENOMENON, CAPTAIN! IT'S A CREATURE FROM THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH POSSESSED OF DESTRUCTIVE POWERS THAT CANNOT BE STOPPED! I WONDER WHERE IT WILL TURN UP NEXT?

WHO CAN TELL? THE GOOL HAD DISAPPEARED! CLARK DANE WENT BACK TO HIS OTHER SCIENTIFIC DUTIES-- ALMOST FORGETTING THE GOOL! BUT... *AT THIS VERY MOMENT*... THE GOOL IS EMERGING FROM THE SEA WITH HATE AND DESTRUCTION GOADING IT ON! WHERE WILL IT SHOW ITSELF NEXT? EUROPE? ASIA? AFRICA? PERHAPS... *IN YOUR HOME TOWN!*



DON'T DARE MISS THE *"MARK OF THE GOOL"* IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *MARVEL MYSTERY*!


HURRY, CAMILLE, HURRY! A KINGDOM AWAITS YOU IF YOU HURRY!
YES, I AM HURRYING... I AM!

STEP INTO THE MIRROR OF MADNESS!

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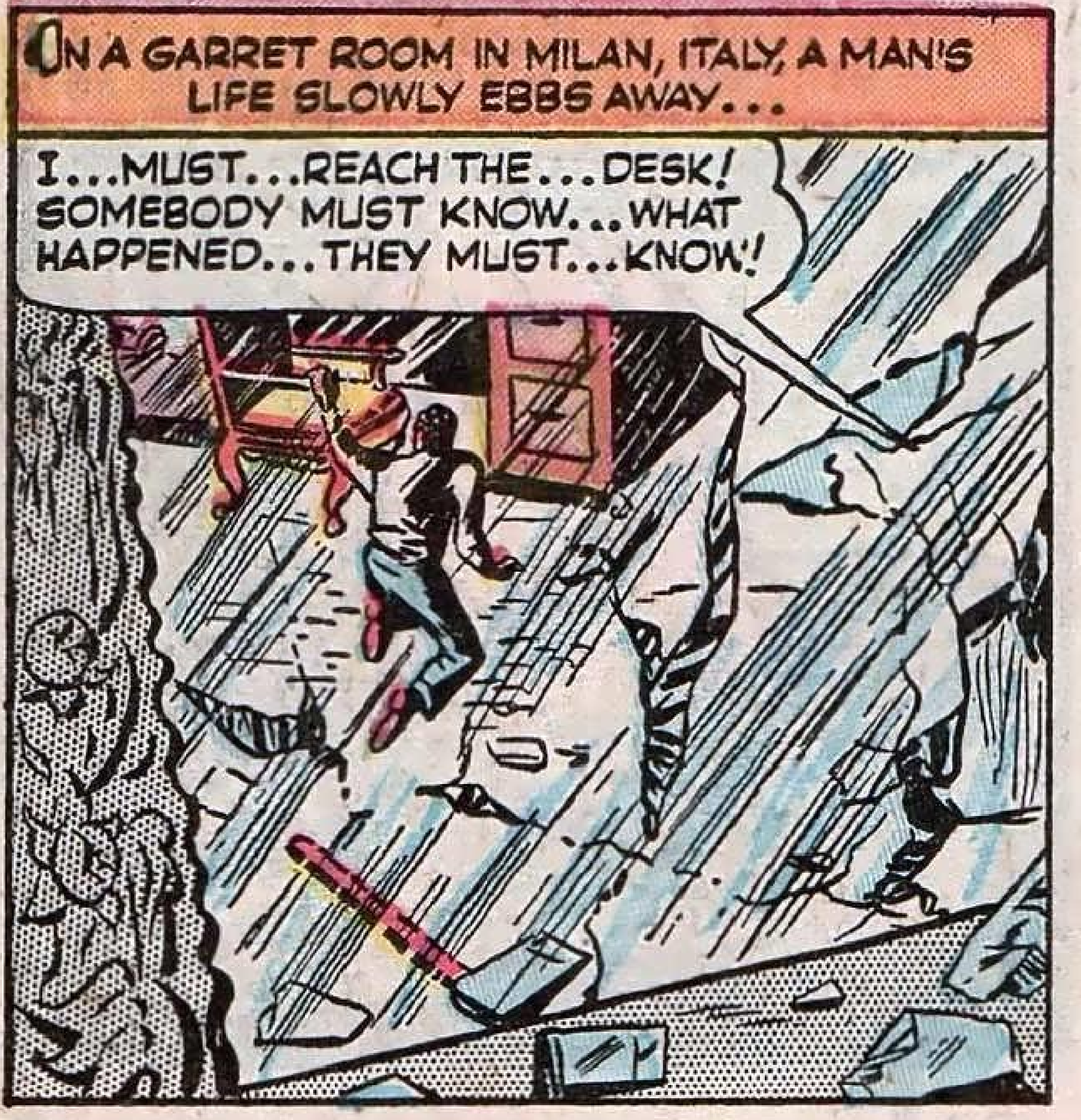
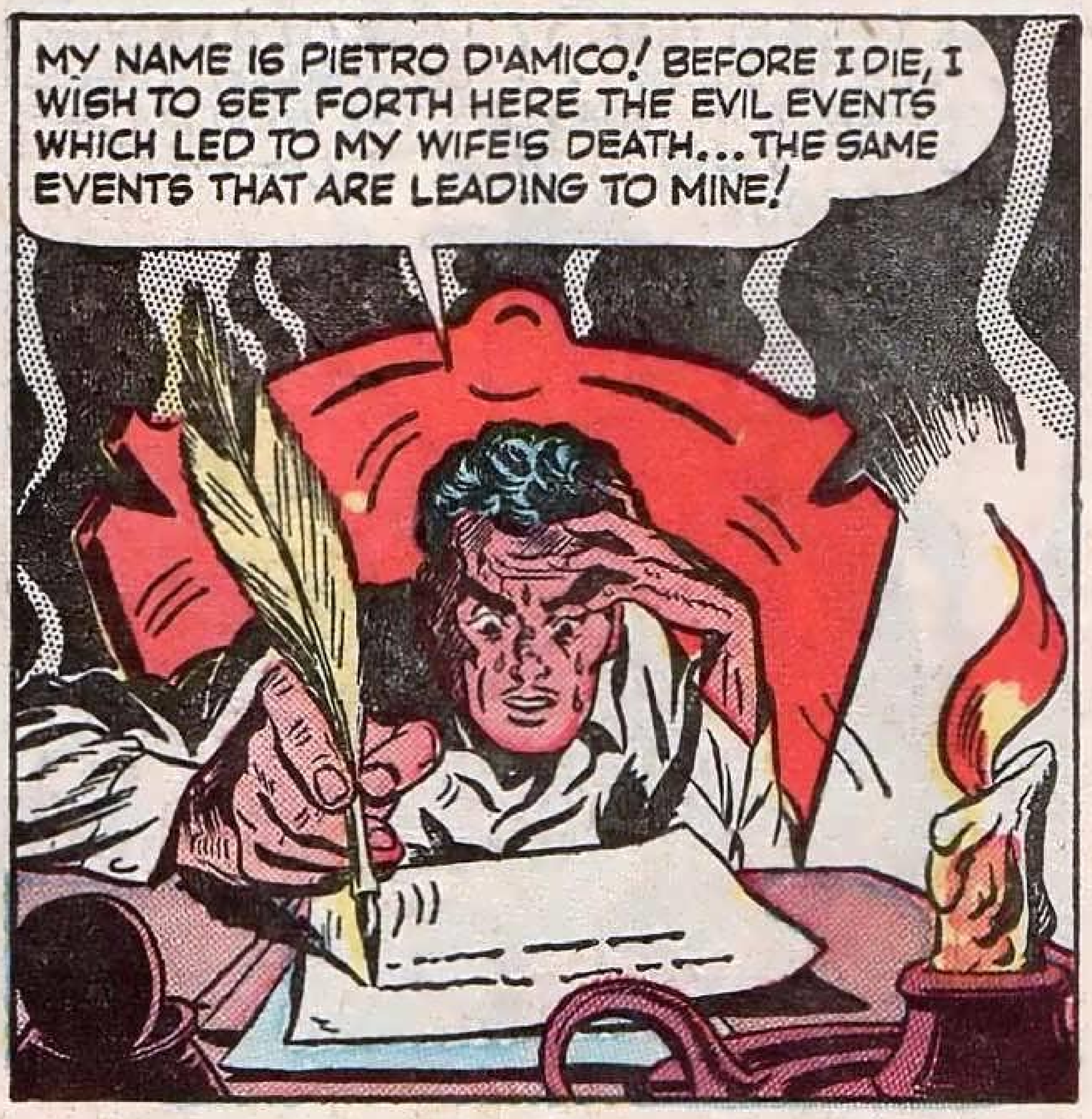
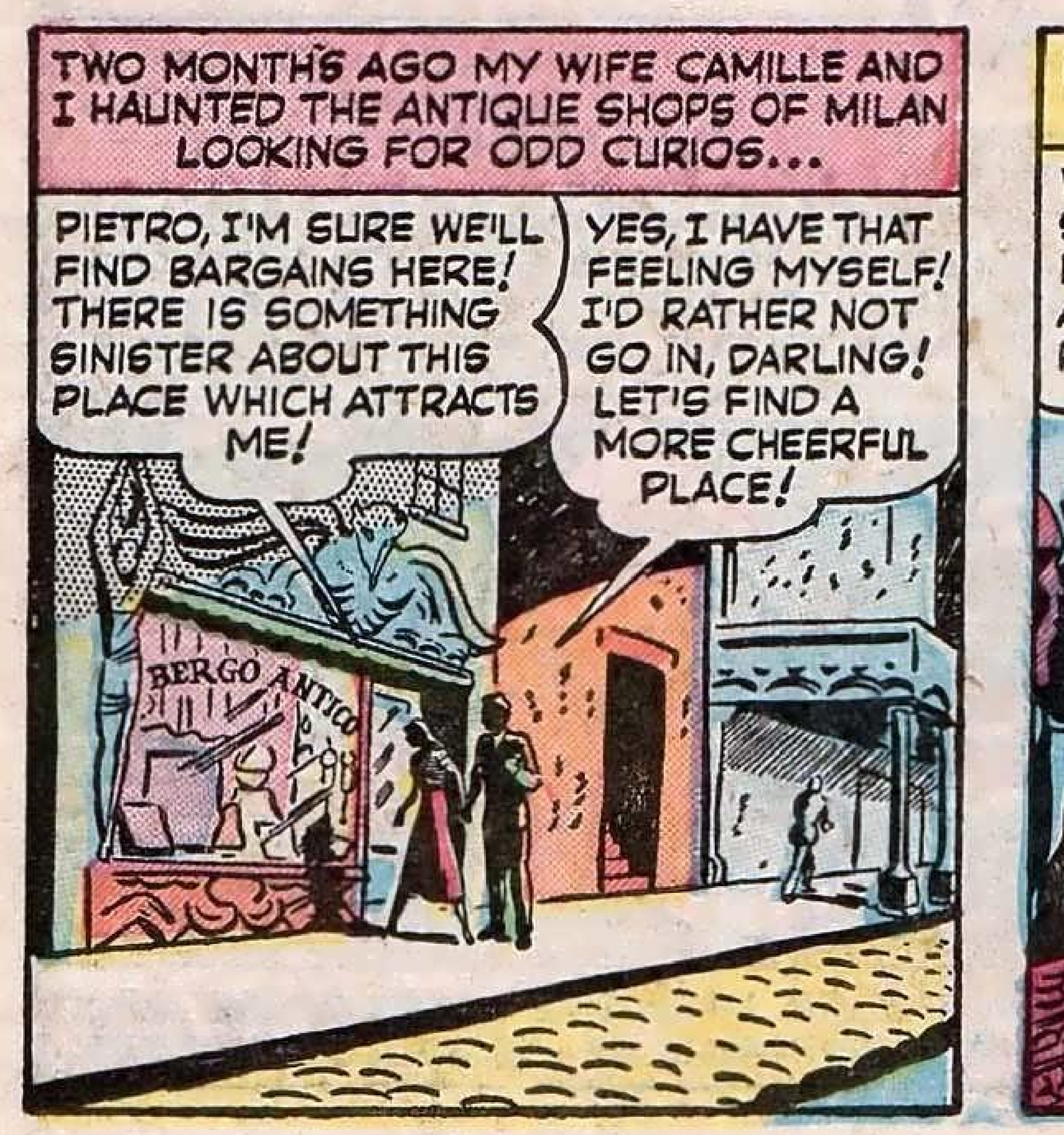
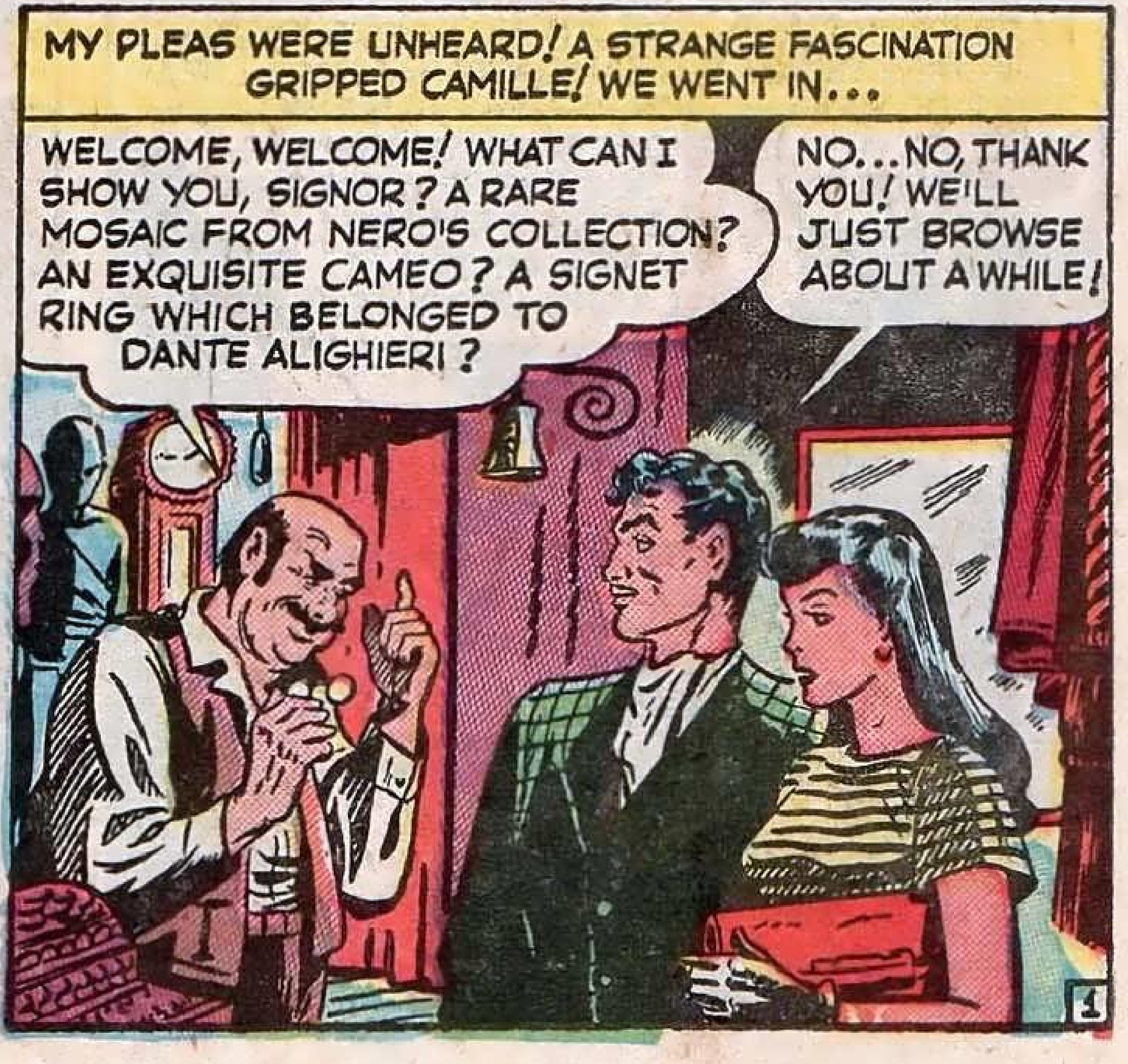

IN A GARRET ROOM IN MILAN, ITALY, A MAN'S LIFE SLOWLY EBBS AWAY...
I...MUST...REACH THE...DESK! SOMEBODY MUST KNOW...WHAT HAPPENED...THEY MUST...KNOW!


MY NAME IS PIETRO D'AMICO! BEFORE I DIE, I WISH TO SET FORTH HERE THE EVIL EVENTS WHICH LED TO MY WIFE'S DEATH...THE SAME EVENTS THAT ARE LEADING TO MINE!


TWO MONTH'S AGO MY WIFE CAMILLE AND I HAUNTED THE ANTIQUE SHOPS OF MILAN LOOKING FOR ODD CURIOS...
PIETRO, I'M SURE WE'LL FIND BARGAINS HERE! THERE IS SOMETHING SINISTER ABOUT THIS PLACE WHICH ATTRACTS ME!
YES, I HAVE THAT FEELING MYSELF! I'D RATHER NOT GO IN, DARLING! LET'S FIND A MORE CHEERFUL PLACE!
BERGO ANTICO


MY PLEAS WERE UNHEARD! A STRANGE FASCINATION GRIPPED CAMILLE! WE WENT IN...
WELCOME, WELCOME! WHAT CAN I SHOW YOU, SIGNOR? A RARE MOSAIC FROM NERO'S COLLECTION? AN EXQUISITE CAMEO? A SIGNET RING WHICH BELONGED TO DANTE ALIGHIERI?
NO...NO, THANK YOU! WE'LL JUST BROWSE ABOUT A WHILE!

WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN CAMILLE NOTICED SOMETHING..
PIETRO! PIETRO, LOOK HERE, QUICKLY! A MIRROR! A GORGEOUS MIRROR!
I CAN'T SEE IT! TAKE THE COVERING OFF IT!
PIETRO...IT'S BEAUTIFUL! I WANT IT FOR MYSELF!
NO...NO! IT'S HIDEOUS -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WH...??! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THAT MIRROR IS NOT FOR SALE! YOU MUST NOT LOOK AT IT! I FORBID IT!
WE'LL FIND ANOTHER MIRROR SOMEWHERE ELSE, DEAR! PLEASE, LET'S GO OUT!
BUT...
MY PLEAS FELL ON DEAF EARS...
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WHY WON'T YOU SELL IT? WE ARE PREPARED TO PAY ANY PRICE YOU ASK!
PLEASE, SIGNOR... SIGNORA: THE MIRROR IS NOT FOR SALE AT ANY PRICE! IT HAS AN EVIL HISTORY... A PAST SO SINISTER THAT I DARE NOT UNCOVER IT FOR HUMAN EYES TO SEE!
YOU ARE A DODDERING OLD FOOL, SIGNOR! YOU MAY YET BE PARTED FROM YOUR PRECIOUS MIRROR AND ITS STUPID LEGENDS!
PERHAPS... WHO KNOWS? BUT AS LONG AS I LIVE, THE MIRROR SHALL NOT BE SOLD!
WE WENT HOME! CAMILLE PACED THE FLOOR LIKE A CAGED ANIMAL, HER THOUGHTS INFLAMED BY THAT HIDEOUS MIRROR...
BUT, WHY?...WHY? THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF MIRRORS IN MILAN! WHY IS YOUR HEART SET ON THAT PARTICULAR ONE, DARLING?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY KNOW THAT I MUST OWN THAT MIRROR, REGARDLESS OF ALL CONSIDERATIONS! I MUST OWN IT!
2

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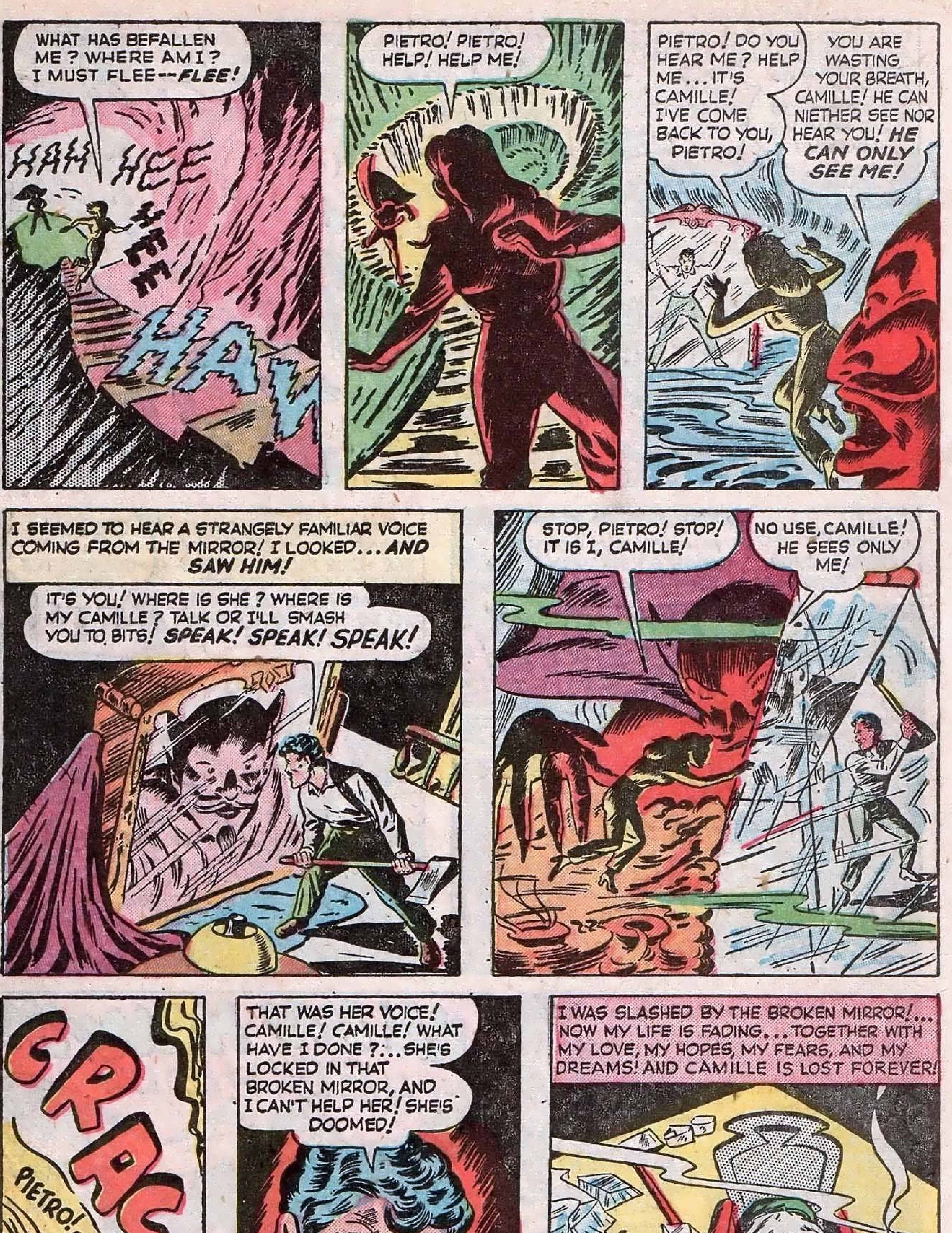
PIETRO MIO! IF YOU LOVE ME... IF YOU WOULD MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD, YOU WILL GET THAT MIRROR FOR ME AT ANY COST!
I DO LOVE YOU, DARLING! YOU ARE MY LIFE AND MY BREATH, CAMILLE--IF THAT IS YOUR WISH, I'LL GET THE MIRROR!
THAT NIGHT I HIRED TWO MEN WITH A SMALL TRUCK!
HERE ARE ONE THOUSAND LIRE FOR YOUR SERVICE AND YOUR SILENCE!
IT'S A FAIR BARGAIN--WE'LL WAIT OUTSIDE!
THE DOOR WAS OPEN! I WALKED INTO THE ANTIQUE SHOP AND...
...WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT AT THIS HOUR, SIGNOR?
I CAME FOR THE MIRROR! I AM WILLING TO BUY IT!
IT IS NOT FOR SALE! NOW GET OUT BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE!
I'LL GET OUT... WITH THE MIRROR!
WH...??! OH-H-H...
CRACK!
HURRY, YOU FOOLS! YOU'RE TAKING TOO LONG!
THIS CURSED MIRROR WEIGHS LIKE THE VERY DEVIL HIMSELF...UGH!
ANTICO

THE MIRROR CHANGED OUR LIVES THE DAY IT ARRIVED! I DARED NOT LOOK INTO IT FOR THE EVIL IMAGE I SAW REFLECTED THERE! BUT CAMILLE FELL IN LOVE WITH IT... YES, IN LOVE! WHAT HORRIBLE POWER CAST ITS SPELL OVER HER I WAS SOON TO FIND OUT! SHE SAT BEFORE IT FOR HOURS, SPELLBOUND, LIKE A BIRD PARALYZED BY THE EYES OF A SNAKE!
IT HAPPENED A WEEK LATER! I WAS AROUSED FROM A DEEP SLEEP BY THE SOUND OF VOICES...
WH--?! I HEAR VOICES IN THE NEXT ROOM... CAMILLE'S VOICE AND A MAN'S!
YES, YES, I HEAR YOU!
I LEAPED UP AND HURRIED TO THE LIVING ROOM...
YES, YES, I HEAR YOUR VOICE! I AM... WALKING ... TOWARDS... YOU!
CAMILLE! CAMILLE-- STOP!!
CAMILLE, WAKE UP! DO YOU HEAR? WAKE UP!
YES, I HEAR! WAIT... FOR ME ... IN THE... MIRROR!
SHE HAS FAINTED! CAMILLE... CAMILLE, TALK TO ME, DARLING! WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S THAT MIRROR... THAT CURSED MIRROR!
HAW HA HA!!
I COVERED THE MIRROR WITH A SHEET, AND FOR A WHILE EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT, UNTIL ONE WEEK LATER...
THE VOICE... IS... CALLING AGAIN! I CAN'T MOVE! I CAN'T HELP YOU, CAMILLE! I'M PARALYZED!
HE'S CALLING ME AGAIN! GOODBYE, PIETRO!
4

BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

HURRY, CAMILLE, HURRY! A KINGDOM AWAITS YOU IF YOU HURRY!
YES, I AM HURRYING... I AM!
HEE! HA! HAW! HA!
HAW! HAW! HA!
AND SUDDENLY...
AHHYIEEE AY YYIEE!
"I HEARD AN EAR-PIERCING SHRIEK! THE SPELL BROKE AND I LEAPED FROM MY BED..."
CAMILLE! CAMILLE, WHERE ARE YOU?
"SHE WAS GONE! MY SENSES REELED, TERROR GRIPPED MY HEART AND I FELL SENSELESS TO THE FLOOR..."
CAMILLE... OH-H-H-H-H...
MEANWHILE...
WH-WHERE AM I? WHY ARE YOU SMILING SO?
I GREET YOU, CAMILLE... QUEEN CAMILLE! YOUR BEAUTY WILL DAZZLE AND BLIND THIS WONDERFUL REALM OF WHICH YOU WILL BE RULER... WITH ME! COME! A GREAT RECEPTION AWAITS YOU!

THE ENTIRE KINGDOM AWAITS YOU, CAMILLE! YOUR RAVISHING BEAUTY WILL DAZZLE THEM AS IT HAS ME! COME, MY DEAR!
SUCCESS! AT LAST! PIETRO NEVER REALLY APPRECIATED ME!
LADIES... GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE QUEEN... QUEEN CAMILLE! LET YOUR EYES FEAST ON HER LOVELINESS!
HA-HA-HA! HEE! HEE! LOVELY, INDEED! A RARE JOKE! RAVISHING!
WH--???! WHY DO THEY LAUGH SO INSANELY? WHAT IS WRONG?
HEE
HA
WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE GORGEOUS, MY DEAR! THEY SEE YOUR FACE STRIPPED OF ITS MASK! THEY SEE YOU AS YOU REALLY ARE! GO TO THAT POOL YONDER AND SEE YOURSELF!
THE POOL! YES... OF COURSE, THE POOL!
NO! NO!! IT CAN'T BE! NO! NO! NO!
HA! HA! HAW! HO!
E! HEE! HEE!
HEE
HA
HEE
HA
6


WHAT HAS BEFALLEN ME? WHERE AM I? I MUST FLEE--FLEE!
HAH HEE HEE HAW
PIETRO! PIETRO! HELP! HELP ME!
PIETRO! DO YOU HEAR ME? HELP ME... IT'S CAMILLE! I'VE COME BACK TO YOU, PIETRO!
YOU ARE WASTING YOUR BREATH, CAMILLE! HE CAN NIETHER SEE NOR HEAR YOU! HE CAN ONLY SEE ME!
I SEEMED TO HEAR A STRANGELY FAMILIAR VOICE COMING FROM THE MIRROR! I LOOKED... AND SAW HIM!
IT'S YOU! WHERE IS SHE? WHERE IS MY CAMILLE? TALK OR I'LL SMASH YOU TO BITS! SPEAK! SPEAK! SPEAK!
STOP, PIETRO! STOP! IT IS I, CAMILLE!
NO USE, CAMILLE! HE SEES ONLY ME!
CRASH!
PIETRO! STOP! AYIEEEO!!!
THAT WAS HER VOICE! CAMILLE! CAMILLE! WHAT HAVE I DONE?... SHE'S LOCKED IN THAT BROKEN MIRROR, AND I CAN'T HELP HER! SHE'S DOOMED!
I WAS SLASHED BY THE BROKEN MIRROR!... NOW MY LIFE IS FADING... TOGETHER WITH MY LOVE, MY HOPES, MY FEARS, AND MY DREAMS! AND CAMILLE IS LOST FOREVER!
THE END

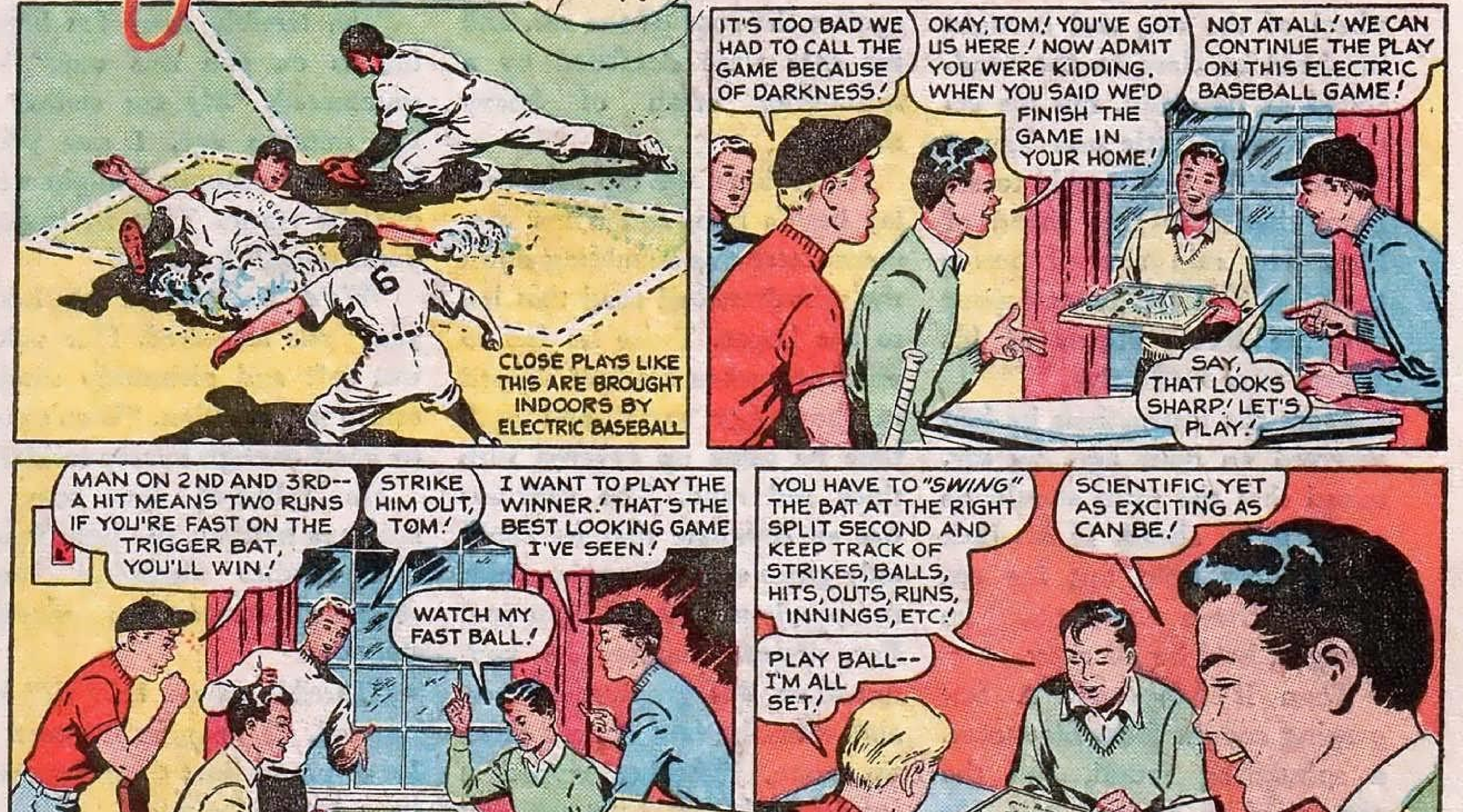
BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

BOYS! *here's great news!*

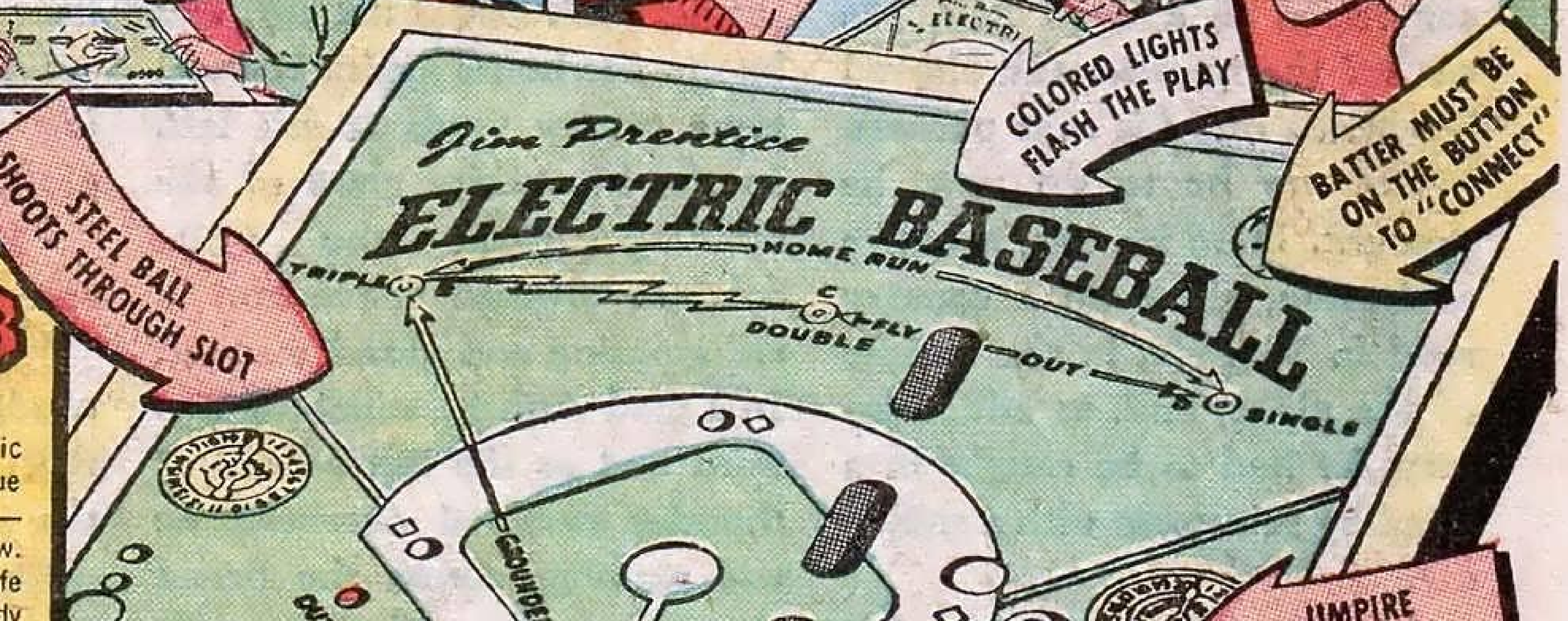
ANNOUNCING: An amazing new game

turns OUTDOOR action into INDOOR thrills

Jim Prentice IT'S A FENCE BUSTER ELECTRIC BASEBALL



6
CLOSE PLAYS LIKE THIS ARE BROUGHT INDOORS BY ELECTRIC BASEBALL
IT'S TOO BAD WE HAD TO CALL THE GAME BECAUSE OF DARKNESS!
OKAY, TOM! YOU'VE GOT US HERE! NOW ADMIT YOU WERE KIDDING, WHEN YOU SAID WE'D FINISH THE GAME IN YOUR HOME!
NOT AT ALL! WE CAN CONTINUE THE PLAY ON THIS ELECTRIC BASEBALL GAME!
SAY, THAT LOOKS SHARP! LET'S PLAY!
MAN ON 2ND AND 3RD-- A HIT MEANS TWO RUNS IF YOU'RE FAST ON THE TRIGGER BAT, YOU'LL WIN!
STRIKE HIM OUT, TOM!
I WANT TO PLAY THE WINNER! THAT'S THE BEST LOOKING GAME I'VE SEEN!
WATCH MY FAST BALL!
YOU HAVE TO "SWING" THE BAT AT THE RIGHT SPLIT SECOND AND KEEP TRACK OF STRIKES, BALLS, HITS, OUTS, RUNS, INNINGS, ETC!
SCIENTIFIC, YET AS EXCITING AS CAN BE!
PLAY BALL-- I'M ALL SET!



Jim Prentice
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DOUBLE
FLY
OUT
SINGLE
GROUNDER
OUT OUT OUT
CONTACT
RESET
UMPIRE
OUT SAFE
STRIKE
BALL
STEEL BALL SHOOTS THROUGH SLOT
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BATTER MUST BE ON THE BUTTON TO "CONNECT"
UMPIRE DECIDES ALL CLOSE PLAYS

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OUT OF THE PAST

MARK WINTERS tightened his grasp about the wheel of the car, and brought his head as close to the windshield as he could, but his actions were of little use. Try as he might, he was unable to see more than fifty feet ahead of him. The rain slashed across the glass in a steady downpour and the feeble efforts of his wipers were ineffective.

From the instructions he had received an hour ago, he surmised that the town should be a few miles ahead. If his luck would only hold out for another fifteen minutes, he thought, he'd be all right.

Then it happened. A few gasping coughs from his motor, a spluttering sound, and the car rolled to a dead halt. He cut off the ignition and shoved his hands into his coat pockets. What was he to do now, he thought. Here he was, a native of Boston, alone on a country road in Virginia, in the middle of the night; and, as added injury, he had to be caught in a blinding rainstorm with a stalled car.

As though in answer to his thoughts, a flash of lightning tore the sky and for one long moment the surrounding countryside was revealed to him. He had a terrifying glimpse of dark thunder clouds—and then he saw a house . . . A large, sprawling mansion with a white colonnade front. It was set back behind a grove of trees, and what made his heart leap with new hope was that it was only a short distance away! Once again, all the view was blotted out as the rain pounded heavily against the roof of the car, and his ears were deafened by a splintering crash of heavy thunder.

He grabbed the lap robe that lay beside him, and a few moments later was stumbling down the rain-drenched road that led to the house. Twice he fell to one knee, when his foot slipped in the soggy earth, and each time he came up covered with thick red mud. The darkness was so complete that he could only guess at the direction from the previous flash of lightning. For several minutes he continued in this groping manner, and when he had almost given up hope, lightning ripped a jagged flash across the sky, and he saw the house again. It stood some twenty yards to his left. In the blue-white glare of the blinding flash, the white columns towered above him in an imposing and grand manner. In a mad dash he stumbled forward and as the last echoes of thunder rumbled overhead he was running across the broad veranda, and a few seconds later he was pounding against the heavy door.

For a long while there was no sound from within. After several minutes of waiting he was at the point of knocking again, when the door opened.

A young woman stood in the doorway. In one hand she held a large, brass candelabra. The flickering pin-points of light cast a moving pattern of shadows across her face, and it was difficult for him to distinguish her features.

"I'm terribly sorry for barging in on you this way," he stammered. "My car stalled a few minutes ago. I saw your house and thought I might wait out the storm. That is, if you don't mind," he added.

"We'd be pleased to have you," she answered. Her voice was soft and pleasantly southern in its inflection. "Won't you be good enough to step inside?"

He followed her into a spacious hallway, the light from the candles throwing long shadows across the marble floors.

"Terrible storm, isn't it?" he queried. "I imagine it's torn a lot of power lines down between here and Richmond."

She turned to face him, holding the candelabra somewhat aloft.

"I don't know exactly," she said.

"Well, I see you're burning candles," he said. "I imagine that first flash of lightning cut the electricity in this section."

She turned her head away and looked toward the window. Then, slowly, she faced him again. "I can't rightly say," she said, "but won't you come in and sit awhile by the fire?"

She led the way and he followed her across the hall and into a large room where a fireplace, heaped high with burning logs, crackled noisily. She motioned him to a chair beside the fire and after he had seated himself, she placed the candelabra upon the mantle.

"If you'll excuse me," she said, "I'll go out and prepare something hot. I'll only be a minute."

"You needn't bother," Mark said. "It sounds as if it's letting up. I'll be able to leave in a few minutes."

"It's no bother," she replied. "I'd feel badly if I let you go without something."

With this remark she picked up the candelabra, and smiling pleasantly at him, she left the room.

For some moments after she had gone, Mark Winters sat staring into the roaring blaze. With the storm letting up, he thought, his motor may dry out and it may still be his good fortune to get to town. As he reached into his jacket for a cigarette he heard footsteps behind him.

Turning about, he was surprised to see a tall man staring at him from the center of the room. What further surprised him was the man's clothes. He wore some kind of riding habit and there, tucked into his belt, was a large, cumbersome revolver.

Hesitantly, Mark rose to his feet. There was something in the man's expression that frightened him.

"I suppose your wife told you I was here," said Mark. "The storm came so suddenly, and with my car—"

"Where are you from?" the man interrupted.

"Well, I'm from Boston myself," said Mark. "I've been riding down from Richmond this evening when I ran into this storm. I only—"

"BOSTON!" the man repeated, harshly.

In a flash the snub-nosed revolver was in his hand, the barrel pointing squarely at Mark's chest.

"Just a minute," stammered Mark. "You've got this all wrong. I'll leave now, if that's what you want."

"You'll leave all right," the man snarled, "but you'll leave feet first!"

The attention of both men was suddenly distracted by the appearance of the woman. With one glance she took in the scene and rushed forward.

"No, Peter!" she cried. "This isn't the way. We'll call the authorities."

He made a move to put her off, but she flung herself upon him. With horror-filled eyes, Mark watched the struggle. Then, suddenly, the stillness of the room was shattered by the

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explosion and the limp figure of the woman slid to the floor.

Mark didn't waste any time. As the man kneeled beside the lifeless form, Mark rushed by him and a moment later he was running down the road toward his car.

A minute later he was gratified by the response of the starter beneath the pressure of his foot. As he shot down the road his one thought was to find help. As the car rounded the bend he spied a cottage and slamming on the brakes he brought the car to a screeching halt. Leaping from the car he dashed up the path. At the open door of the cottage stood an elderly man.

"Hurry," shouted Mark, hoarsely. "A woman has just been killed!"

"A woman KILLED? Where?" asked the old man.

"In that large mansion up the road."

Mark turned and pointed his finger in its direction.

"You must be mistaken," said the old man.

"But I'm not," shouted Mark. "I saw it with my own eyes."

"Then take another look," said the old man.

Mark followed the old man's questioning gaze, and what he saw made him turn cold with horror.

The storm had broken and a full moon rode high across the cloud swept sky. In the blanched moonlight stood the house—but WAS it the house? thought Mark. The entire veranda was a shamble of broken columns, and what remained standing seemed on the verge of collapse. Dangling shutters swung noiselessly from gaping windows, and all about was a picture of ruin and decay.

"It can't be," Mark whispered.

"What you're looking at," said the old man, "is what's left of the Peter's mansion. It's been like this for years. Some folks say it's haunted by the ghosts of its original owners. He accidently shot his wife one night during the civil war. It seems she was trying to protect the life of some northern soldier. They say he came from Boston."

Mark listened quietly as the old man spoke. He heard the words, all right, but they just DIDN'T make sense . . . or did they?

THE END

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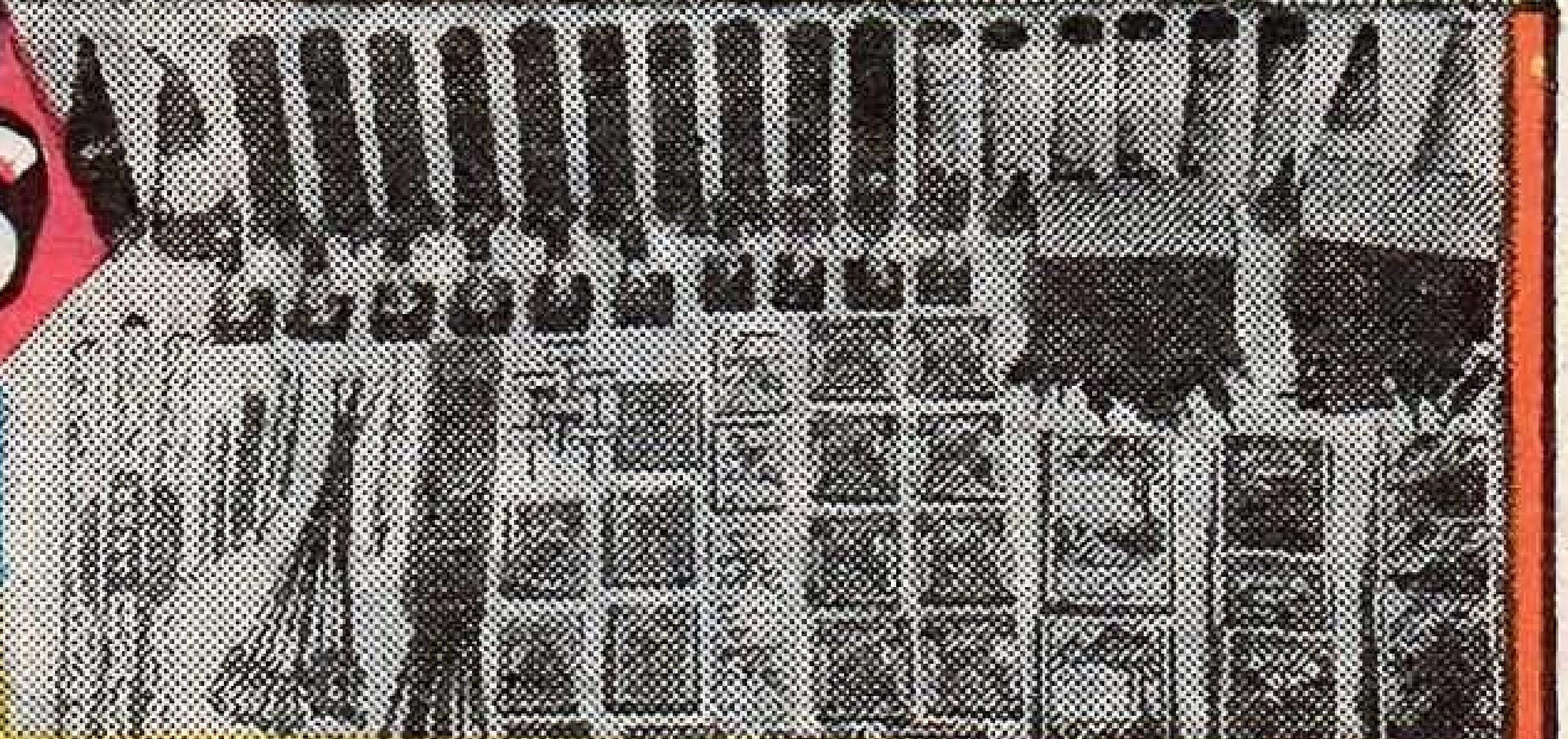

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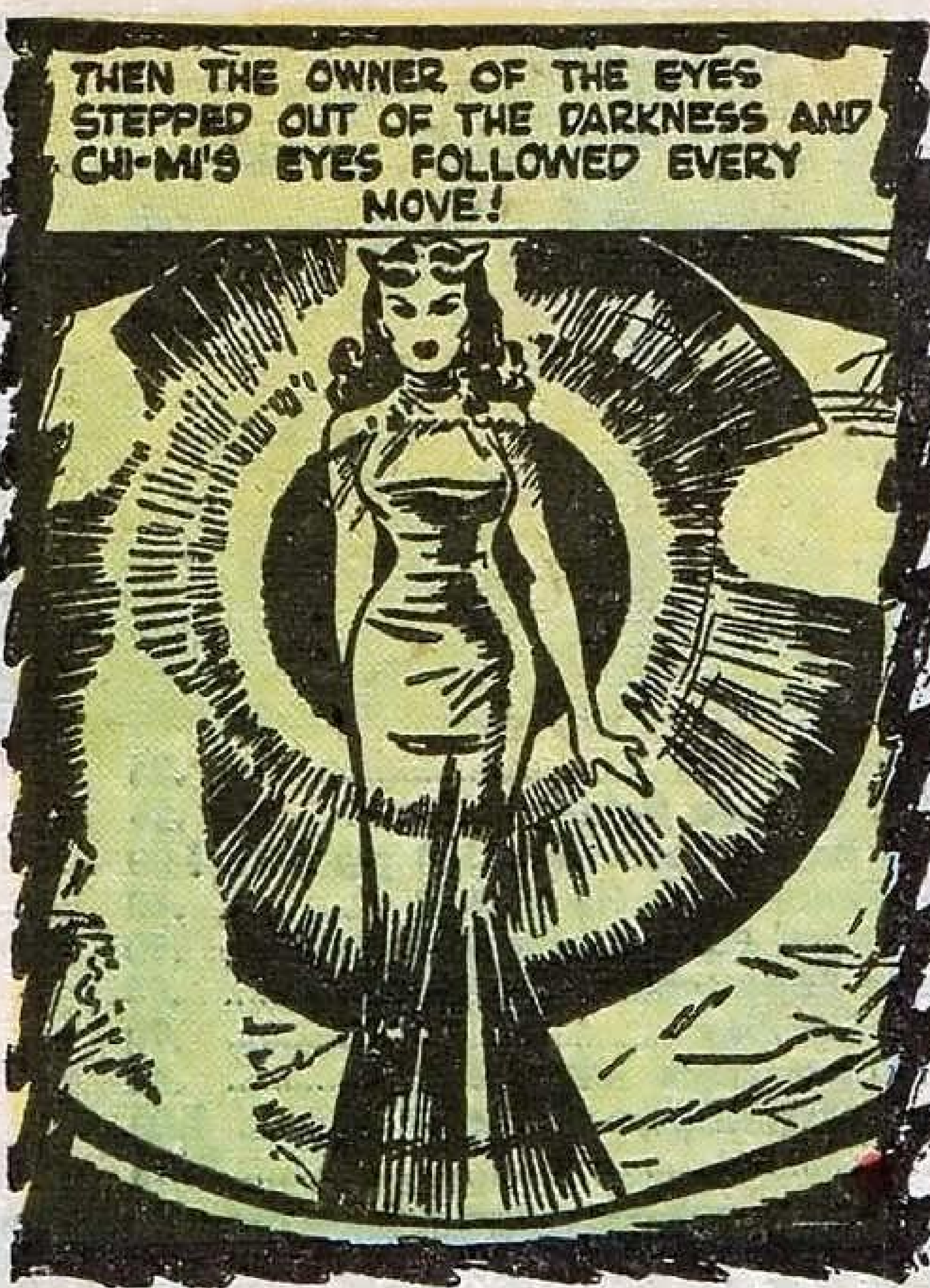
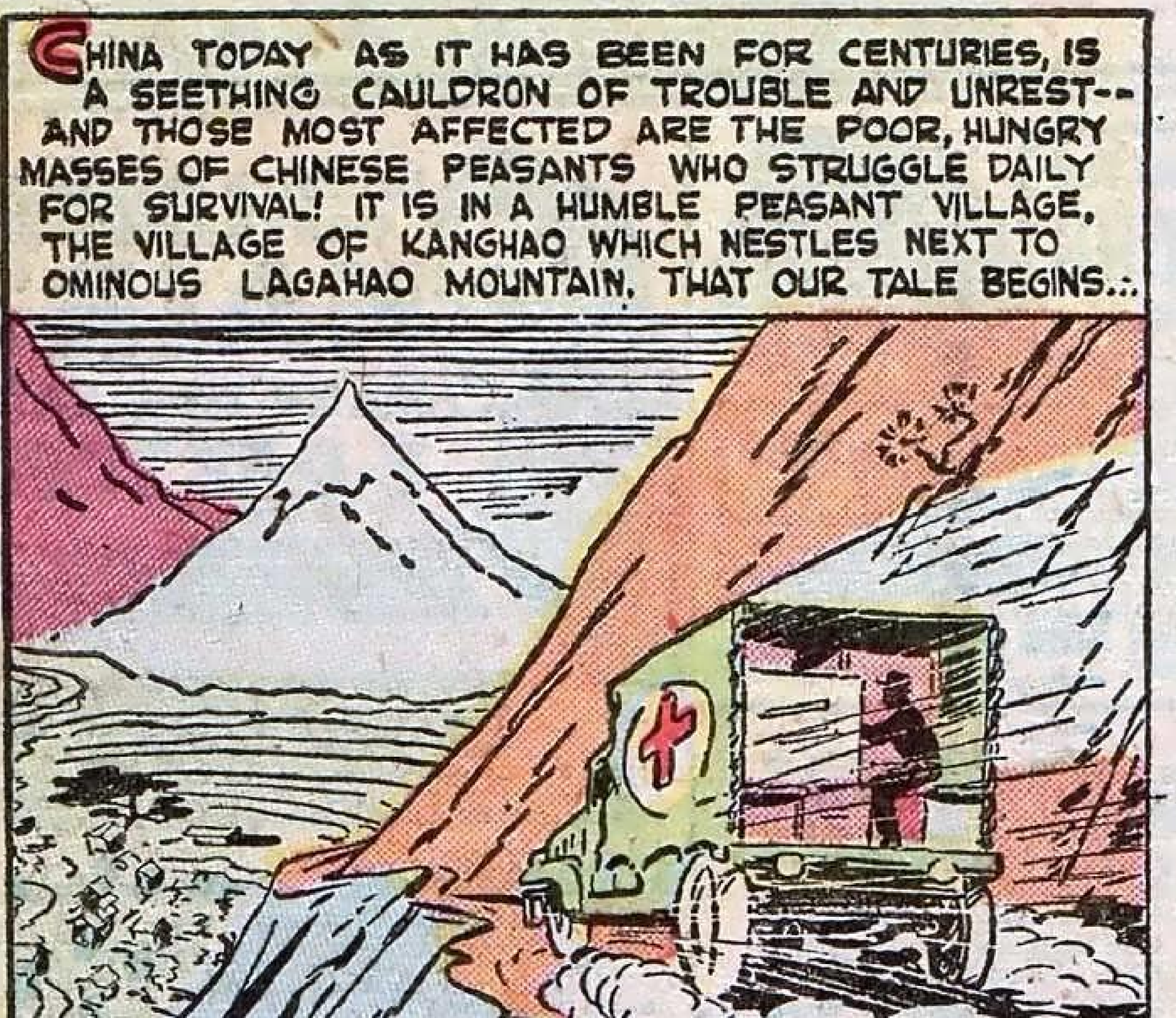
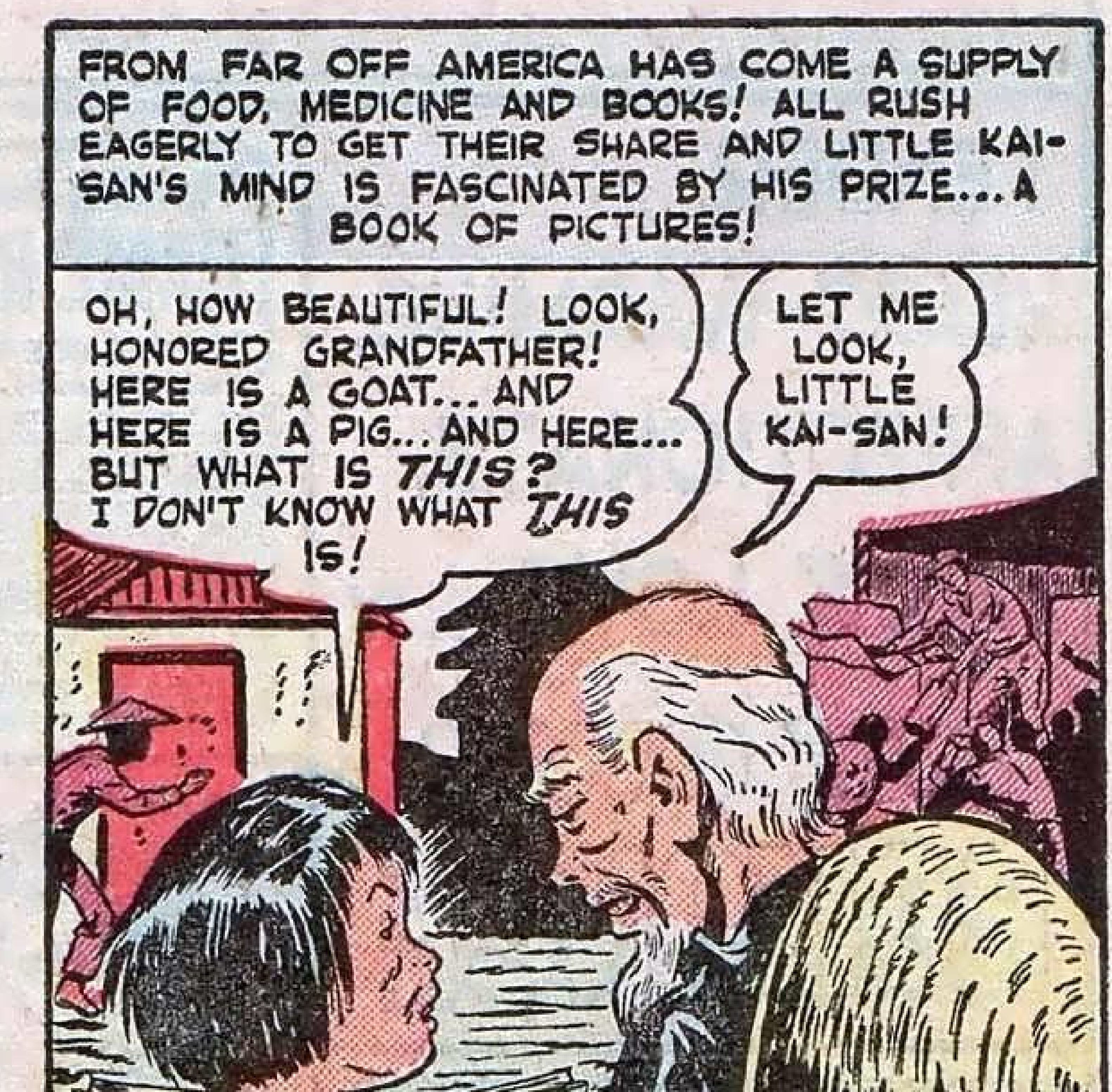
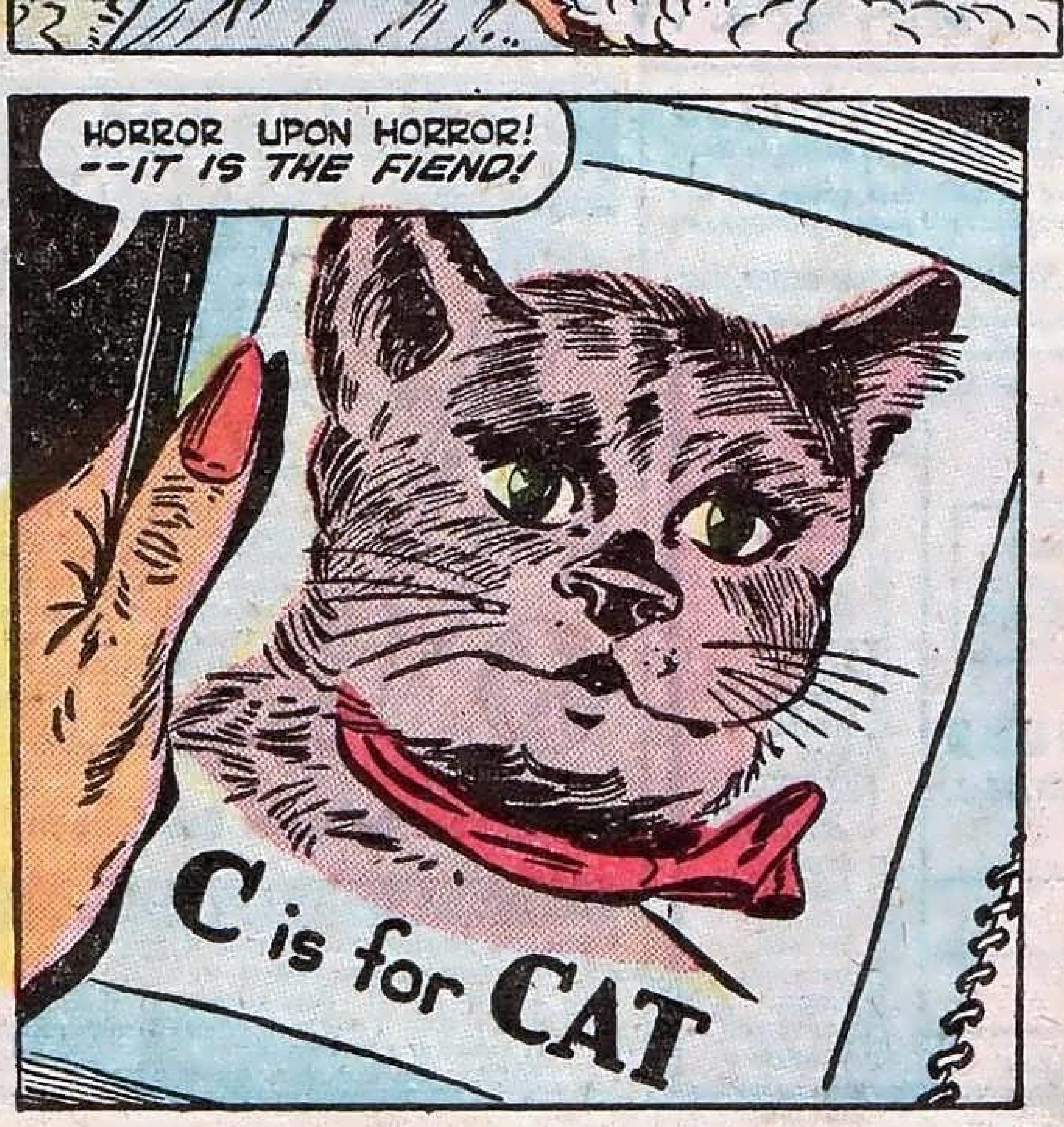

THEN THE OWNER OF THE EYES STEPPED OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND CHI-MI'S EYES FOLLOWED EVERY MOVE!

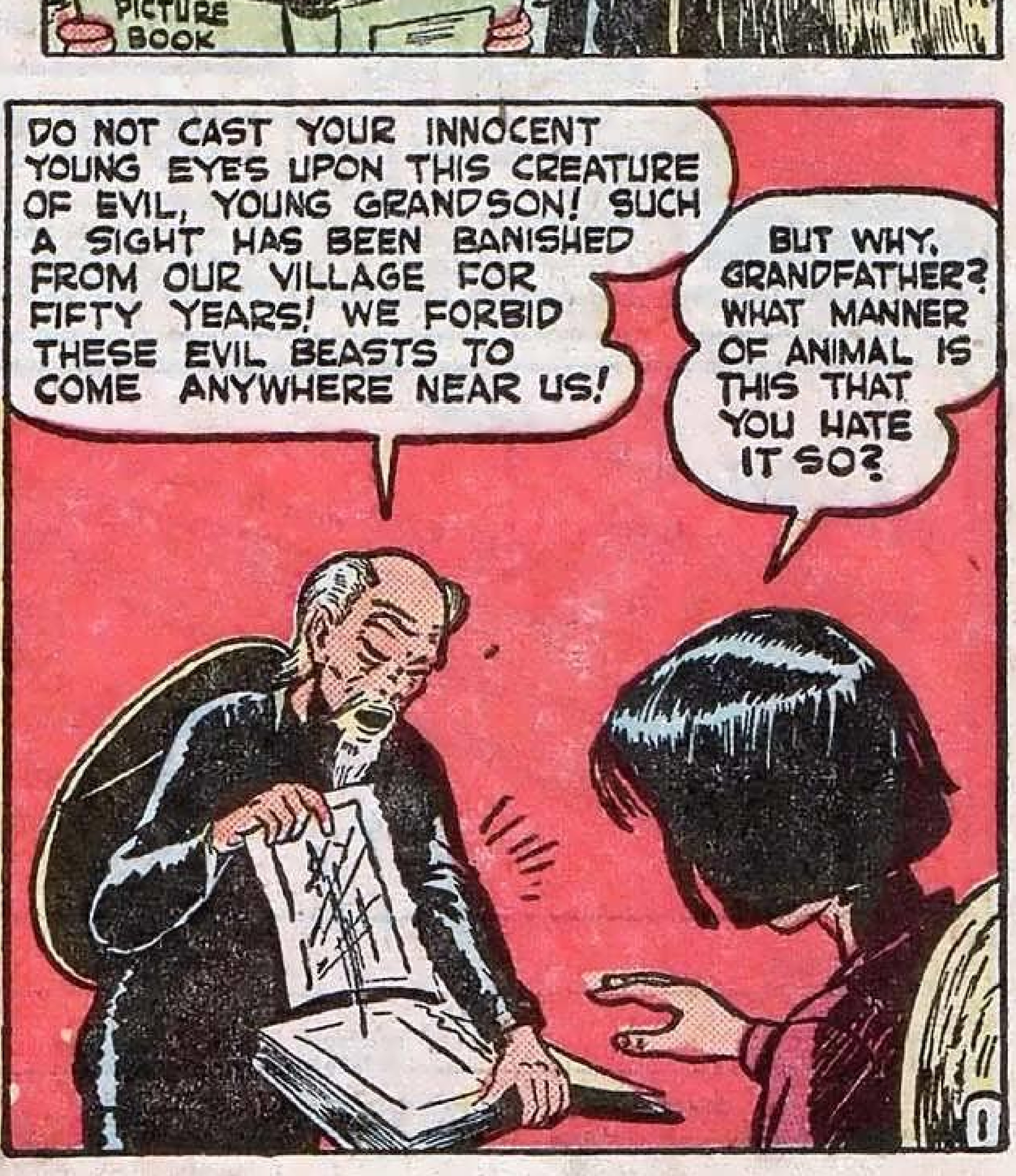
"BEWARE OF THE CAT!"

5376


CHINA TODAY AS IT HAS BEEN FOR CENTURIES, IS A SEETHING CAULDRON OF TROUBLE AND UNREST--AND THOSE MOST AFFECTED ARE THE POOR, HUNGRY MASSES OF CHINESE PEASANTS WHO STRUGGLE DAILY FOR SURVIVAL! IT IS IN A HUMBLE PEASANT VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE OF KANGHAO WHICH NESTLES NEXT TO OMINOUS LAGAHAO MOUNTAIN, THAT OUR TALE BEGINS...


FROM FAR OFF AMERICA HAS COME A SUPPLY OF FOOD, MEDICINE AND BOOKS! ALL RUSH EAGERLY TO GET THEIR SHARE AND LITTLE KAI-SAN'S MIND IS FASCINATED BY HIS PRIZE... A BOOK OF PICTURES!
OH, HOW BEAUTIFUL! LOOK, HONORED GRANDFATHER! HERE IS A GOAT... AND HERE IS A PIG... AND HERE... BUT WHAT IS *THIS*? I DON'T KNOW WHAT *THIS* IS!
LET ME LOOK, LITTLE KAI-SAN!
PICTURE BOOK


HORROR UPON HORROR! --*IT IS THE FIEND!*
C is for CAT


DO NOT CAST YOUR INNOCENT YOUNG EYES UPON THIS CREATURE OF EVIL, YOUNG GRANDSON! SUCH A SIGHT HAS BEEN BANISHED FROM OUR VILLAGE FOR FIFTY YEARS! WE FORBID THESE EVIL BEASTS TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR US!
BUT WHY, GRANDFATHER? WHAT MANNER OF ANIMAL IS THIS THAT YOU HATE IT SO?

IT IS A CAT! MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AGO, LITTLE KAI-SAN, SUCH A CREATURE LIVED WITH THE WITCH, MONGO-LO-KAI, AT THE VERY TOP OF LAGAHAO MOUNTAIN--THAT BLACK MOUND OF EARTH THAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU NOW, THAT NO ONE HAS DARED TO CLIMB SINCE!
YOUR WORDS MAKE ME SHUDDER, GRANDFATHER!
...WELL, THEY SHOULD! BUT LET ME TELL YOU OF THE EVENTS, SO YOU WILL KNOW WHY WE HATE CATS! AT THAT TIME THE HANDSOMEST YOUTH OF OUR VILLAGE WAS CHI-MI, WHOM ALL THE GIRLS WANTED AS A HUSBAND...
CHOOSE, CHI-MI! WHICH ONE OF US SHALL YOU HAVE AS A WIFE?
I HAVE CHOSEN...
LOTUS FLOWER SHALL BE MY BRIDE! PREPARE A FESTIVAL FOR TONIGHT! WE SHALL CELEBRATE OUR BETROTHAL!
OH, CHI-MI! I LOVE YOU SO!
MUCH AS THEY ALL LOVED CHI-MI, THE REST OF THE GIRLS WERE HAPPY HE HAD SELECTED LOTUS FLOWER! SHE WAS THE FAIREST AND THE SWEETEST AND LOVED HIM MORE THAN THE OTHERS! ALL WERE HAPPY-- BUT ONE! THIS WAS SANO... AND SHE VOWED REVENGE!
IF I CANNOT HAVE HIM, NO ONE SHALL! CURSE YOU, LOTUS FLOWER, AND YOU, CHI-MI! YOU SHALL SEE WHAT IT IS TO SCORN SANO, DAUGHTER OF THE WITCH!
SANO'S MOTHER HAD BEEN BANISHED FROM THE TOWN FOR WITCHCRAFT AND HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN LAGAHAO MOUNTAIN! IT WAS THERE THAT SANO WENT FOR AID IN HER QUEST...
MOTHER! WHERE ARE YOU? THIS IS SANO, YOUR DAUGHTER!
IN THE CAVERN, MY LITTLE ONE! DO NOT FEAR... COME IN!
THE SIGHT THAT MET HER IN THE CAVERN MADE EVEN SANO TREMBLE!
QUIET, MY BEAUTIFUL CAT! DO NOT BARE YOUR LOVELY FANGS OR UNSHEATH YOUR CLAWS! THIS IS MY ONLY DAUGHTER!
THAT CAT--IT FRIGHTENS ME SO! BUT MOTHER, YOU MUST HELP ME...
...AND WHEN SANO TOLD HER STORY...
WE WILL HELP HER, EH, SLEEK CAT? YES, YOU AND I WILL TAKE CHI-MI AWAY FROM LOTUS FLOWER, EH? YES! YES! HEE-HEE-HEEAH!

BE A MODERN '49er— BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

MEANWHILE, WE IN THE VILLAGE WERE PREPARING FOR THE FEAST, AND THAT NIGHT WE GATHERED AROUND THE GREAT FIRE TO JOIN IN THE DANCE OF CELEBRATION!
I AM SO HAPPY, CHI-MI!
EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES WILL BE AS HAPPY AS THIS ONE!
THEN CHI-MI SAW A PAIR OF EYES GLOWING IN THE DARK! HE WAS FASCINATED BY THEM, AS IF THEY HAD SOME MAGIC LURE!
THOSE EYES! GREEN... GLOWING... BEAUTIFUL!
HE DREW AWAY FROM LOTUS FLOWER...
CHI-MI! ...WHAT IS IT?
NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH BEAUTY! HOW THEY INTRIGUE ME!
THEN THE OWNER OF THE EYES STEPPED OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND CHI-MI'S EYES FOLLOWED EVERY MOVE!
IT WAS A WOMAN, A THING OF BEAUTY AS HAD NEVER BEEN SEEN AMONG OUR FOLK!
WHO IS SHE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE!
SHE DANCED A SLOW, BEAUTIFUL DANCE, AND NEVER FOR ONE MOMENT DID SHE TAKE HER EYES FROM CHI-MI, WHO STARED AS THOUGH HYPNOTIZED!
THEN, WITH A SOFT MURMUR LIKE THE PURR OF A CAT, SHE DREW NEARER TO CHI-MI! HE DREW HER INTO HIS ARMS AND KISSED HER-- AS LOTUS FLOWER BURST INTO TEARS!
OH, CHI-MI! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR LOVE FOR ME?
3

AT THAT MOMENT RAIN POURED DOWN, AND THE DANCER VANISHED BEFORE CHI-MI'S EYES!
GONE! SHE'S GONE! OH, QUEEN OF JOY, WHERE ARE YOU?
CHI-MI, DO NOT LOOK FOR HER! I AM HERE!
AWAY! DO NOT TOUCH ME! WHO ARE YOU COMPARED TO HER WHOM I HAVE JUST HELD IN MY ARMS? WHERE HAS SHE GONE?
BUT SHE WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!
THAT LAUGH! IT'S COMING FROM THE MOUNTAIN! HAS AN EVIL RING!
HEE! HEE! HEE!
THE SPELL OF THE DANCER HAD CAST ITS CHARM ON CHI-MI AND HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE BROKEN-HEARTED LOTUS BLOSSOM! HE LEFT HER--HIS DREAMS WERE OF THE GIRL OF MYSTERY!
MY LOVE FOR YOU IS GONE, LOTUS FLOWER! I SHALL NOT REST UNTIL I FIND MY BELOVED!
BUT I STILL LOVE YOU! NOTHING CAN DESTROY THAT! THERE IS SOMETHING EVIL ABOUT THAT DANCER--FORGET HER, CHI-MI!
LOTUS FLOWER SENSED DANGER! SHE HAD HEARD THAT LAUGH FROM THE MOUNTAIN AND KNEW THAT CHI-MI WAS UNDER AN EVIL SPELL!
I WILL KEEP WATCH ON CHI-MI'S HOME! NOTHING WILL STIR ME FROM--OH, WHAT IS THAT? ...A BLACK CAT!
A CAT BOUNDED PAST LOTUS FLOWER AND LEAPED INTO THE WINDOW OF CHI-MI'S HOME!
WHY SHOULD IT JUMP INTO CHI-MI'S WINDOW?
MEOW-W-W!
AND LOTUS FLOWER, TREMBLING LIKE THE LOVELY BLOSSOM FOR WHICH SHE WAS NAMED, HEARD THE WORDS SHE DREADED MOST!
YOU'RE HERE! YOU'RE HERE! AT LAST, MY DELIGHT, MY HEART!
...BUT NO ONE WENT IN--EXCEPT THAT CAT! OHH, CHI-MI--YOU'RE IN DANGER!
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BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

SWALLOWING HER PRIDE, FIGHTING HER FEARS, LOTUS FLOWER WENT INTO THE HOUSE AND SAW...
LOTUS FLOWER, THIS IS MY BELOVED WHOM I SHALL MARRY VERY SOON!
I STILL LOVE YOU, CHI-MI! ...IF THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY, SO SHALL IT BE! YOUR DANCER CAN LIVE WITH ME UNTIL THE WEDDING!
LOTUS FLOWER KNEW THAT CHI-MI WOULD NEVER BELIEVE HER SUSPICIONS OF THE DANCER, SO SHE KEPT HER THOUGHTS WITHIN HER AND TOOK THE BEAUTIFUL CREATURE OF THE NIGHT TO HER HOME!
WHY DO YOU NOT SPEAK? WHAT IS YOUR NAME, STRANGER? DO YOU NOT KNOW OUR TONGUE?
SUDDENLY, AS THEY COME TO THE GATE OF LOTUS FLOWER'S HOME...
EEEOW!
WHAT IS IT? WHY DO YOU SCREAM?
HURTLING TOWARD THEM WAS THE FAMILY DOG, GROWLING SAVAGELY, A WARNING OF DEATH IN HIS EYES!
STOP IT, DOG!
EEOWW!
GRRR! WOOF! GRRR!
HE FEARS YOU! GO INTO THE HOUSE WHILE I CHAIN HIM!
CHAINED, THE DOG DID NOT REST, BUT GLARED AT THE HOUSE, HIS LOW, OMINOUS GROWL STILL RATTLING IN HIS THROAT! LOTUS FLOWER SHOWED THE DANCER TO A ROOM...
YOU MUST BE TIRED! SLEEP HERE! I HOPE YOU FIND MY HUMBLE HOME COMFORTABLE!
THE DANCER CURLED HERSELF ON THE MAT... AND IN A FEW MOMENTS WAS ASLEEP, BREATHING SOFTLY! BUT THE BREATHING WAS NOT LIKE THAT OF ANYTHING HUMAN... IT SOUNDED LIKE...
...A CAT! SHE PURRS LIKE ONE IN HER SLEEP! OH, WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE HAS COME WITHIN OUR MIDST?
P-PURR-R-R!

THE NEXT DAY THE DANCER DID NOTHING BUT LIE ABOUT, BATHING HERSELF IN THE WARMTH OF THE SUN--BUT ALWAYS OUT OF REACH OF THE DOG!
WHEN MEALTIME CAME, SHE REFUSED ALL THE FOOD EXCEPT...
I SEE YOU LIKE MILK! THAT IS YOUR SECOND BOWL!
P-R-R-R-R!
LATER THAT DAY, AS LOTUS FLOWER WAS DOING HER WORK, SHE SAW A MOUSE RUNNING ACROSS THE YARD! AFTER IT CAME--A CAT!
THAT CAT-- AGAIN!
CAT AND MOUSE VANISHED INTO THE WOODS, AND LOTUS FLOWER WENT TO SEE IF THE DANCER WAS ALL RIGHT!
WHERE IS SHE? SHE WAS HERE A MOMENT AGO!
IN A FEW MOMENTS THE DANCER CAME OUT OF THE WOODS! SHE HAD A SMILE OF CONTENTMENT AND WAS LICKING HER LIPS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S HARD TO CONCEIVE OF SUCH A THING! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE... OH, NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!
LOTUS FLOWER COULD NOT BELIEVE HER SUSPICIONS! BUT THAT NIGHT SHE HEARD HER CHAINED DOG HOWLING IN AGONY AND PAIN! SHE RUSHED TO HER WINDOW TO SEE...
THE CAT! IT'S ATTACKING THE DOG! SCRATCHING IT! SLASHING IT TO RIBBONS!
MEOWUR!
AT SIGHT OF LOTUS FLOWER, THE VICIOUS CAT BOUNDED AWAY! TREMBLING IN FEAR, LOTUS FLOWER WENT TO THE ROOM OF THE DANCER... THE GIRL OF MYSTERY WAS ASLEEP, PURRING CONTENTEDLY... BUT HER LONG NAILS WERE RED WITH FRESH BLOOD!
IT IS... IT IS... THE CAT! SHE IS THE CAT!

LOTUS FLOWER COULD NOT SLEEP FOR WORRYING! THE NEXT DAY WAS THE WEDDING OF CHI-MI AND THE DANCER...A DAY OF DOOM FOR HER BELOVED...
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME IF I TELL THEM, LEAST OF ALL CHI-MI! AND IF HE MARRIES HER, HE TOO WILL TURN INTO A CAT AND BE LOST TO ME FOREVER! OH, WHAT SHALL I DO?
DAWN CAME TOO SOON, BUT STILL NO ANSWER TO THE GIRL'S PROBLEM! SHE LOOKED AT THE DANCER WITH LOATHING AND FEAR... BUT THE DANCER ONLY SMILED BACK EVILLY!
YOU CAN AFFORD TO SMILE, CAT WHO IS A WOMAN! YOU'VE CAST YOUR EVIL SPELL OVER CHI-MI AND YOU WILL LEAD HIM TO DOOM! THAT IS YOUR PLAN, ISN'T IT?
BUT THE DANCER UTTERED NOT A WORD! SHE TURNED HER BACK AND WALKED TO CHI-MI'S HOUSE, WHERE EVERYTHING WAS READY FOR THE MARRIAGE!
NO ONE KNEW OF IT, BUT THE EXILE OF LAGAHAO MOUNTAIN CAME OUT OF HER HIDING PLACE TO WITNESS HER TRIUMPH!
HEE! HEE! HEE! I HOPE MY LITTLE DAUGHTER IS SATISFIED!
SANO HAD BECOME HORROR-STRICKEN AT WHAT WAS HAPPENING! SHE RAN TO LOTUS FLOWER AND...
FORGIVE ME, LOTUS FLOWER--ALL THIS IS OF MY DOING! I DID NOT DREAM THAT IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS! KILL ME! KILL ME! PUNISH ME!
IT IS DONE, SANO! WE SHALL WEEP TOGETHER FOR CHI-MI'S FATE!
WHAT SHALL WE DO? HOW CAN WE STOP THIS AWFUL THING?
WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA! ONE LAST CHANCE... ONE HOPE...
...IN THE VILLAGE THE WEDDING WAS TAKING PLACE! CHI-MI'S EYES BEAMED WITH ADMIRATION AS HE LOOKED AT THE BEAUTIFUL CREATURE AT HIS SIDE WHO PURRED IN CONTENTMENT...
WE ARE GATHERED HERE, MY CHILDREN, TO BRING THESE TWO TOGETHER AS MAN AND WIFE...
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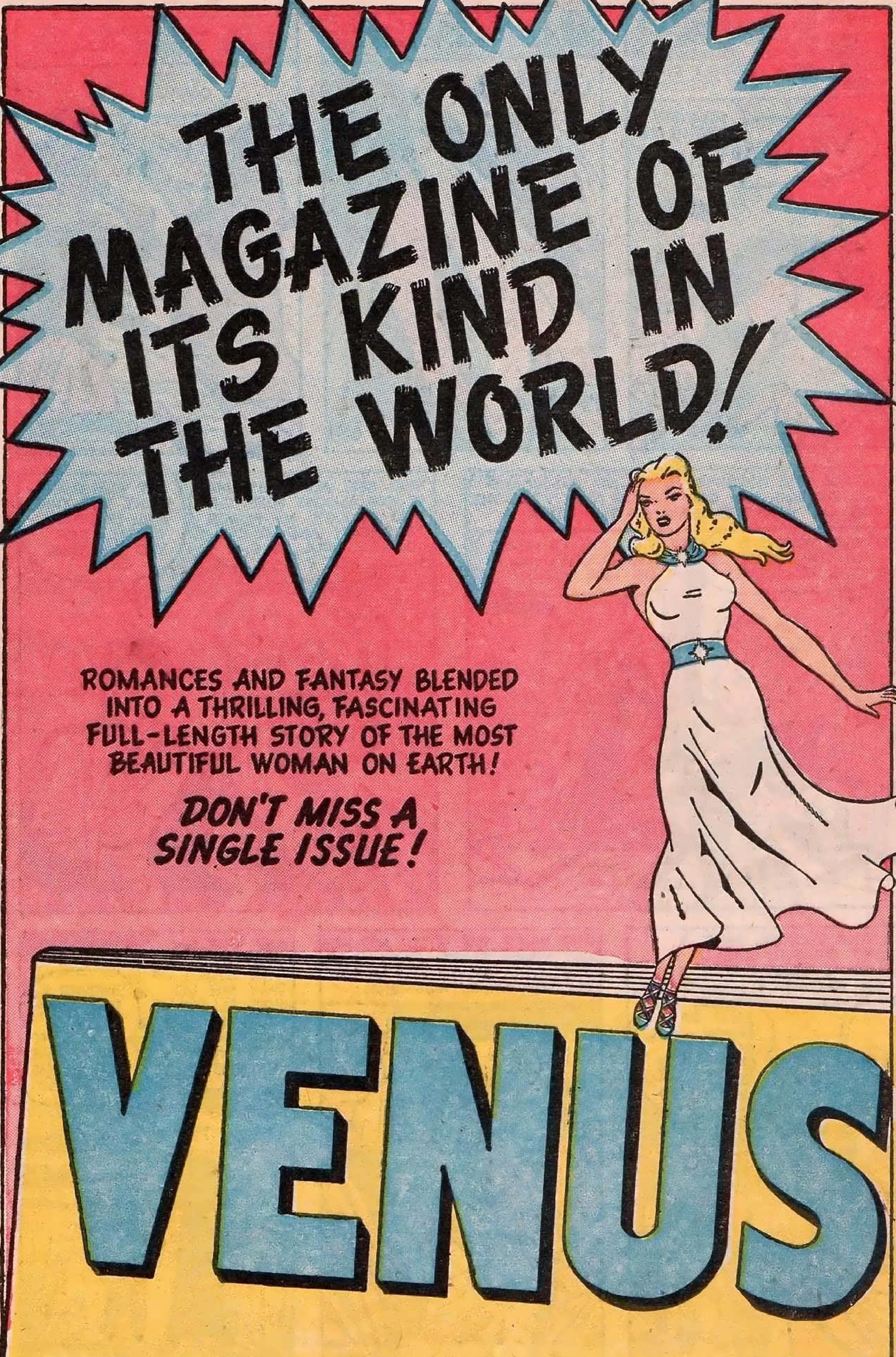
BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

JUST THEN THE GROWL OF A DOG WAS HEARD! THE DANCER'S EYES NARROWED IN FEAR AND A HORRIBLE SCREAM BURST FROM HER THROAT!
BELOVED! WHAT IS IT?
YEOW!
GRR!
... IN A FLASH, THE DOG LEAPED FOR THE DANCER. FANGS BARED!
GRRR!
AT THE SAME MOMENT, THE DANCER CHANGED INTO A CAT!
NO! NO! THIS CANNOT BE!
BEFORE THE HORRIFIED EYES OF CHI-MI AND THE OTHERS, THE CAT DASHED AWAY FROM THE DOG AND INTO THE ARMS OF THE WITCH!
THE WITCH! IT IS THE WITCH OF THE MOUNTAIN!
THAT CAT IS HERS! THIS EVIL THING IS OF HER DOING!
YES! HEE! HEE! HEE! AND IT WAS ALMOST DONE, EH, YOU FOOLS? MY POWER IS GREAT! AND MY CAT IS BEAUTIFUL, IS SHE NOT?
BUT YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR THIS EVIL IS DEATH, WITCH!... FOR YOU AND YOUR CAT!
LOTUS FLOWER, WHAT KIND OF EVIL SPELL HAVE I BEEN UNDER, MY FLOWER?
CLEAR YOUR MIND OF IT, CHI-MI... ALL SHALL BE ONCE MORE AS IT WAS WITH US!
AND WHILE THE WITCH AND HER CAT WERE TAKEN AWAY TO BE EXECUTED, CHI-MI AND LOTUS FLOWER WERE MARRIED...
AND THAT, MY GRANDSON, IS THE STORY OF WHY WE DO NOT ALLOW CATS IN OUR VILLAGE! DO YOU NOW UNDERSTAND?
INDEED I DO! AND I SHALL ALSO STAY AWAY FROM THAT BLACK MOUNTAIN!
THE END


THE ONLY MAGAZINE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD!
ROMANCES AND FANTASY BLENDED INTO A THRILLING, FASCINATING FULL-LENGTH STORY OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ON EARTH!
DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!
VENUS

"THE MAN WHO *FLED* FROM THE *FUTURE!*"

IT IS WELL, THEN! REMEMBER THAT I AM CONFERRING A GREAT HONOR UPON YOU! WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SHOW YOU IS SOMETHING NEVER SEEN BY THE EYES OF ANYONE BUT MYSELF! ENTER, BORGASIA... ENTER MY LABORATORY!
5418
IT WAS A DESERTED ROAD IN BULGARIA, JUST BEFORE WORLD WAR I... IN THE DUST LAY THE FIGURE OF A MAN, GROANING IN PAIN...
OH..H..H! HELP...HELP...
HIS CLOTHES WERE TORN, HIS FACE A MASS OF WELTS, AND HIS EYES WERE SWOLLEN SHUT... BUT HE WAS ABLE TO SEE ENOUGH TO OBSERVE A MAN WHO WALKED TOWARD HIM...
HELP ME...PLEASE!.. GET ME TO A DOCTOR...
YES... I AM A DOCTOR...
A DOCTOR? OH, THANK HEAVEN... I *AM* IN LUCK... AT *LAST!* YOU CAN SAVE ME, DOCTOR... ONLY YOU...
BE QUIET NOW... I WILL TAKE YOU TO MY OFFICE...
NO! NOT YET! FIRST YOU MUST LISTEN... I MUST TELL YOU OF WHAT HAS BROUGHT THIS ABOUT... IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME! YOU *WILL* LISTEN, WON'T YOU, DOCTOR? YOU *WILL* LISTEN... AND YOU *WILL* BELIEVE?
YES... I WILL BELIEVE...

MY NAME, DOCTOR, IS ARNOLD BORGASIA... I, TOO, AM A DOCTOR, OR RATHER A STUDENT OF MEDICINE! ONLY THIS MORNING I ARRIVED HERE TO STUDY UNDER THE FAMOUS DR. HAGG!
AH! DR. HAGG! A VERY GREAT MAN!
"YES... THAT IS WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO... UNTIL... BUT WAIT... YOU SEE, I KNEW THAT HE HAD RETIRED FROM ACTIVE PRACTICE TO DEVOTE ALL HIS TIME TO EXPERIMENTATION! I HAD HEARD OF HIS WORK IN THE FIELD OF BLOOD... HIS RESEARCHES... AND I WROTE TO HIM, ASKING IF I COULD WORK WITH HIM. A REPLY CAME QUICKLY"...
Borgasia- Come at once. I will be happy to have you help me in my important work. Hagg
"SO THIS MORNING I ARRIVED AT THE STATION... WAITING FOR ME WAS A TALL, CADAVEROUS MAN... WITH EYES LIKE GLEAMING BULLETS"...
DR. HAGG?
YES... YOU ARE BORGASIA? COME... THERE ISN'T A MOMENT TO WASTE!
"I WAS HAPPY AT MEETING THE GREAT MAN AT LAST AND I TRIED TO MAKE CONVERSATION AS WE WENT ALONG THE ROADS IN HIS CARRIAGE"...
IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, DOCTOR... YOU SEE, I...
NOT A MOMENT... WE CANNOT WASTE A MOMENT...
"I KNEW HE WAS A GENIUS AND PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS WORK, SO I EXCUSED HIS NOT ANSWERING ME! THAT WAS ALL HE SAID AS WE RODE... 'WE CANNOT WASTE A MOMENT.'... AT LAST WE ARRIVED AT HIS HOME--AN OLD HOUSE SET DEEP IN THE WOODS"...
AH! I SEE YOU LIKE PRIVACY... A GOOD PLACE TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR WORK, EH?
YOU MUST HAVE QUITE A FEW STUDENTS HERE UNDER YOU...
THERE IS NO ONE HERE SAVE YOU AND ME, BORGASIA...
"AT LAST AN ANSWER... BUT A STRANGE ONE!"

BE A MODERN '49er — BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

"THE HOUSE WAS QUIET...GLOOMY! SOMEHOW I COULDN'T REPRESS A SHIVER THAT RAN THROUGH MY BONES"...
WELCOME TO HAGG MANOR... THE HOME OF GREAT DEEDS IN MEDICINE!
OH--THANK YOU, DOCTOR! MAY I GO TO MY ROOM NOW? THE TRIP TIRED ME A BIT...
BUT OF COURSE... YOU NEED REST...GOOD REST... FOR WHAT IS AHEAD OF YOU! YOU SHALL BE A VERY IMPORTANT NAME IN SCIENCE, I ASSURE YOU!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE, DOCTOR! I ONLY HOPE I CAN JUSTIFY IT!
YOU WILL, BORGASIA! YOU WILL, NEVER FEAR... AS LONG AS YOU HAVE PLACED YOURSELF IN MY HANDS! REST NOW... I SHALL CALL YOU WHEN I AM READY TO SHOW YOU MY WORK...
"I LAY DOWN, STRANGELY TROUBLED...DR. HAGG WAS AN ODD PERSON, A *VERY* ODD PERSON!...BUT I TRIED TO ERASE HIM FROM MY MIND...AND THEN I DOZED OFF, MY BRAIN AS EXHAUSTED AS MY BODY"..
HAGG... EXPERIMENT... BLOOD... RESEARCH...
"I MUST HAVE SLEPT FOR QUITE A WHILE...THEN... THEN I SUDDENLY AWOKE! SOMEONE WAS IN MY ROOM... SOMEONE WAS STANDING THERE! SOMEONE WAS..."
DR. HAGG!
DID I STARTLE YOU, MY YOUNG FRIEND? I'M SORRY! I CAME TO AWAKEN YOU FOR THE WORK WE ARE TO DO...YOU AND I...
WORK? NOW? BUT I THOUGHT PERHAPS TOMORROW...
NO! TIME IS PRECIOUS! EACH MOMENT FLEETS BY AND WE CAN NEVER RECAPTURE IT AGAIN... COME! WE CANNOT WASTE ONE... NOT *ONE* MOMENT!

"I FOLLOWED AS HE LED ME OUT OF MY ROOM AND DOWN INTO THE CELLAR!"
BORGASIA, NOW YOU WILL SEE MY LABORATORY WHERE I CONDUCT MY SECRET WORK...
A LABORATORY... IN THE CELLAR? ISN'T THAT... ER... AN UNUSUAL PLACE FOR A DOCTOR'S EXPERIMENTS?
"HE SUDDENLY TURNED ON ME WITH A COLD FURY THAT BLAZED THROUGH HIS GIMLET EYES!"
UNUSUAL? YOUNG MAN, DO YOU DARE QUESTION MY TECHNIQUE? ARE YOU LIKE... THE OTHERS?
WHY... NO, DR. HAGG! I WAS JUST WONDERING! BELIEVE ME, I DID NOT MEAN TO OFFEND YOU!
IT IS WELL, THEN! REMEMBER THAT I AM CONFERRING A GREAT HONOR UPON YOU! WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SHOW YOU IS SOMETHING NEVER SEEN BY THE EYES OF ANYONE BUT MYSELF! ENTER, BORGASIA... ENTER MY LABORATORY!
"THIS ROOM WAS A GREAT SURPRISE TO ME! SPIC AND SPAN, GLEAMING WITH METAL WALLS, MODERNISTIC IN SETTING, IT WAS A STRANGE CONTRAST TO THE REST OF THE BUILDING!"
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, MY YOUNG FRIEND, EH?
IT'S WONDERFUL, DR. HAGG! A TRULY PERFECT LABORATORY! YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD AND CAREFUL OF THE WORK YOU DO HERE!
BUT OF COURSE I AM! I DO NOTHING RASHLY! EVERYTHING IS PLANNED... PERFECTLY! BUT THE MOST WONDERFUL FACT OF ALL YOU HAVE NOT REALIZED YET! IT IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE, BORGASIA... SOMETHING OTHER DOCTORS LAUGHED AT WHEN I TOLD THEM! YOU WILL NOT LAUGH, WILL YOU?
WHY, NO--DR. HAGG! WHAT IS IT?
BORGASIA, LISTEN... THE MOMENT YOU WALKED INTO THIS ROOM... YOU STEPPED INTO THE FUTURE! YES! HA! HA! UNBELIEVABLE, ISN'T IT? BUT THIS IS NO LONGER TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON! HA! IT IS FOUR HOURS LATER!
WHAT? DR. HAGG! ARE YOU SERIOUS?
4

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"I WAS, OF COURSE ASTOUNDED BY HIS FANTASTIC STATEMENT! WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS IMPOSSIBLE! COMING FROM A MAN OF SCIENCE, IT WAS RIDICULOUS... BUT I DID NOT DARE TELL HIM SO! BECAUSE EVEN MY DOUBT SEEMED TO MAKE HIM SEETHE IN ANGER!"
I SEE, BORGASIA, THAT YOU ARE A DOUBTING THOMAS! BUT I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE THAT WILL GIVE YOU *REAL* CAUSE TO DOUBT ME... BORGASIA, I AM GOING TO *BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE!*
DR. HAGG, I AM ONLY A STUDENT, BUT EVEN I KNOW THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS BEYOND THE POWER OF MORTAL MAN!
IS IT? IS IT? YES... BEYOND THE POWER OF *ORDINARY* MAN! BUT I AM NOT ORDINARY, BORGASIA! OF COURSE I HAVE NOT COMPLETED MY EXPERIMENT AS YET... BUT I *WILL... RIGHT NOW!*
IT... IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING!
"I WAS STUNNED BY HIS WORDS... CONVINCED THAT THE BRILLIANT MIND OF DR. HAGG HAD CRACKED UNDER THE STRAIN OF HARD WORK! THE ONCE-GREAT SCIENTIST HAD BECOME A MADMAN! SO I TRIED TO HUMOR HIM..."
ALL THIS HAS BEEN MOST INSTRUCTIVE AND I AM VERY ANXIOUS TO LEARN MORE... BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO REST NOW?
REST? THERE IS NO TIME FOR REST! FIRST I MUST PROVE SOMETHING TO YOU...
I AM GOING TO PROVE MY FIRST STATEMENT... THAT WE ARE NOW FOUR HOURS INTO THE FUTURE! YOU WILL SEE SOMETHING THAT WILL TAKE PLACE BY SIX O'CLOCK! LOOK, BORGASIA...
MERCIFUL HEAVEN... IT LOOKS LIKE... CAN IT BE?
YES! YES! A BODY! A DEAD BODY! LOOK, BORGASIA! LOOK UPON THE FACE OF THIS CORPSE! DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM? SPEAK, MAN... SPEAK!
NO, THIS CAN'T BE!
"MY BLOOD FROZE IN MY VEINS! A GRIM, COLD TERROR RAN THROUGH THE VERY MARROW OF MY BONES! WHAT IMPOSSIBLE SIGHT WAS THIS BEFORE ME? AS I STARED IN MIXED HORROR, THE LAUGHTER OF DR. HAGG RANG IN MY EARS LIKE THE TOLL OF A FUNERAL BELL!"
HA! HA! HA!

I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT I SAW ON THAT TABLE... WHOSE BODY WAS STRETCHED OUT THERE IN COLD, WHITE DEATH... I AM GETTING WEAKER... BUT I MUST FINISH... I MUST COMPLETE MY STORY...
YES... I AM LISTENING...
DOCTOR! WHEN I HAVE FINISHED... YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF ME, WON'T YOU?!
YES... THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT... I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
"GOOD! NOW.... WHEN I SAW WHAT I SAW, MY MIND WENT INTO A WHIRLPOOL OF EXCITEMENT AND CONFUSION! I HAD TO GET AWAY... TO ESCAPE THIS MADMAN AND HIS MACABRE CHAMBER OF DEATH!"
LET ME OUT OF HERE! THIS... THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
AH! YOU'RE CONVINCED AT LAST, ARE YOU? DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW--THAT WE ARE IN THE FUTURE?
OUT OF MY WAY, MADMAN! LET ME BREATHE THE OUTSIDE AIR! THIS PLACE REEKS WITH DEATH!
CALM YOURSELF, BORGASIA! THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR EXCITEMENT! *I... AM... GOING... TO... BRING... THAT... BODY... BACK... TO... LIFE..!*
"I TRIED TO APPEAL TO ANY REASON HE MAY HAVE HAD LEFT IN THAT DEMENTED MIND..!"
DR. HAGG, LISTEN TO ME... YOU ARE TOYING WITH LIFE AND DEATH! DON'T DO IT, I BEG YOU! IF WHAT I SEE IS TRUE... IF THAT BODY WILL LIE THERE IN DEATH AT SIX O'CLOCK... AND IF YOU CANNOT BRING IT BACK TO LIFE... YOU WILL BE A *MURDERER!*
BAH! WHAT IS ONE PUNY LIFE IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE?
BUT I HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME IN IDLE TALK!... *BORGASIA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?*
OUT! OUT! I WILL NOT REMAIN HERE!
"MAD WITH DESPERATION, I FLUNG MYSELF AT THE BOLTED DOOR!"

IT'S NO USE, BORGASIA! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THIS HOUSE! YOU MIGHT AS WELL SUBMIT TO ME! REMEMBER THAT YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN SCIENTIFIC HISTORY!
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU LUNATIC! YOU'RE MAD... MAD!
"BUT HE THREW HIMSELF AT ME! HE WAS AS STRONG AS FIVE MEN AND HIS ARMS FASTENED ABOUT ME LIKE IRON BANDS!"
STOP! YOU'RE... YOU'RE CRUSHING THE LIFE OUT OF ME!
THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE! DIE, BORGASIA! DIE! DIE!
"I MANAGED TO WORK MY ARMS FREE AND HAMMERED AWAY AT HIM AS HARD AS I COULD..."
AH! YOU FIGHT WELL, MY YOUNG FRIEND!
LET GO OF ME! I WILL NOT DIE! I WILL NOT DIE!
"I MUST HAVE INFLICTED SOME DAMAGE, FOR HE LOOSENED HIS HOLD ON ME AND ONCE MORE I RUSHED TO THE DOOR! THIS TIME I OPENED IT AND MANAGED TO GET OUT."
NO! COME BACK! YOU MUST HELP ME IN MY EXPERIMENT!
I'VE... I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THIS FIEND!
"OUTSIDE, I COULD NOT FIND MY WAY! THE PATH WAS LOST IN THE WILD BRAMBLE OF THE TREES... SO I PLUNGED INTO THE WOODS! BUT RIGHT BEHIND ME I COULD HEAR DR. HAGG'S HEAVY BREATHING AS HE FOLLOWED!"
IF I COULD ONLY LOSE HIM... BUT IT LOOKS HOPELESS! THESE WOODS ARE A MAZE!
"MY FLIGHT WAS A DESPERATE ONE! I CRAWLED ON MY HANDS AND KNEES THROUGH THORNS THAT CUT MY SKIN AND TORE MY CLOTHES! BUT I FELT NOTHING-- NOTHING BUT A COLD HORROR!"
I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE POLICE ...GOT TO WARN THEM ABOUT THAT MADMAN!-- BUT HE'S STILL AFTER ME! I CAN HEAR HIM... FOLLOWING!

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"THEN, AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS, ALL WAS QUIET! I COULDN'T HEAR HIS FOOTSTEPS OR HIS DEEP BREATHING!"
OH! THANK HEAVENS! I'VE LOST HIM! I'M FREE! FREE!
"I WAS TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT AND GRATEFUL FOR MY ESCAPE! WEAK, SICK, I MANAGED TO KEEP ON... AND AT LAST... I REACHED THIS ROAD..."
LIFE! BEAUTIFUL, THRILLING LIFE! IT'S MINE AGAIN... IT'S MINE, MINE!
...AND THEN... YOU CAME ALONG TO HELP ME, DOCTOR... JUST IN TIME... I... I... AM WEAK... VERY WEAK... I THINK... I AM GOING... TO FAINT...
DON'T WORRY... I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU...
FAINT... YES, FAINT... DOCTOR... WHAT TIME IS IT?
A QUARTER OF SIX, BORGASIA!
HA! DR. HAGG FAILED... YOU SEE... I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM HIM... OR BY SIX O'CLOCK I WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD! THE SUBJECT FOR HIS ATTEMPT... TO BRING LIFE TO THE DEAD... YOU SEE, THE BODY I SAW ON THE TABLE... WAS MY OWN...!
WEAKENED BY HIS ORDEAL, BORGASIA FAINTED...
YES, BORGASIA... I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
THE END

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"I WAS ASHAMED OF MY FACE

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If your face is broken out, if bad skin is making you miserable, here is how to stop worrying about pimples, blackheads and other externally caused skin troubles.

JUST FOLLOW SKIN DOCTOR'S SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

"I just want to be alone!" Is there anything more awful than the blues that come when your face is broken out and you feel like hiding away because of pimples, blackheads and similar externally caused skin troubles? I know how it feels from personal experience. And I can appreciate the wonderful, wonderful joy that Ethel S. Jordan felt when she found something that not only *promised* her relief—but *gave* it to her in just one short week!

When I was having my own skin troubles, I tried a good many cosmetics, ointments and whatnot that were recommended to me. I remember vividly how disappointed I felt each time, until I discovered the skin doctor's formula now known as the Double Viderm Treatment. I felt pretty wonderful when friends began to rave about my "movie-star skin." No more self-consciousness. No more having my friends feel sorry for me. The secret joy, again, of running my fingertips over a smoother, clearer skin.

Many women shut themselves out of the thrills of life—dates, romance, popularity, social and business success—only because sheer neglect has robbed them of the good looks, poise and feminine self-assurance which could so easily be theirs. Yes, everybody looks at your face. The beautiful complexion, which is yours for the asking, is like a permanent card of admission to all the good things of life that every woman craves. And it really can be yours —*take my word for it!*—no matter how discouraged you may be this very minute about those externally caused skin miseries.

What Makes "Bad Skin" Get That Way?

Medical science gives us the truth about how skin blemishes usually develop. There are small specks of dust and dirt in the air all the time. When these get into the open pores in your skin, they can in time "stretch" the pores and make them large enough to pocket dirt particles, dust and infection. These open pores become infected and bring you the humiliation of pimples, blackheads or other blemishes. Often, the natural oils that lubricate your skin will harden in the pores and result in unsightly blemishes.

When you neglect your skin by not giving it the necessary care, you leave yourself wide open to externally caused skin miseries. Yet proper attention with the Double Viderm Treatment may mean the difference between enjoying the confidence a fine skin gives you or the embarrassment of an ugly, *un*beautiful skin that makes you want to hide your face.

The Double Viderm Treatment is a formula prescribed with amazing success by a dermatologist and costs you only a few cents daily. This treatment consists of two jars. One contains Viderm Skin Cleanser, a jelly-like formula which penetrates your pores and acts as an antiseptic. After you use this special Viderm Skin Cleanser, you simply apply the Viderm Fortified Medicated Skin Cream. You rub this in, leaving an almost invisible protective covering for the surface of your skin.

This double treatment has worked wonders for so many cases of external skin troubles that it may help you, too —*in fact, your money will be refunded if it doesn't.* Use it for only ten days. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. It is a guaranteed treatment. Enjoy it. Your dream of a clearer, smoother complexion may come true in ten days or less.

A screen star's face is her fortune. That's why she makes it her business to protect her complexion against pimples, blackheads and blemishes. Your face is no different. Give it the Double Treatment it needs and watch those skin blemishes go away.

Use your Double Viderm Treatment every day until your skin is smoother and clearer. Then use it only once a week to remove stale make-up and dirt specks that infect your pores, as well as to aid in healing external irritations. Remember that when you help prevent blackheads, you also help to prevent externally caused skin miseries and pimples.

Just mail your name and address to Betty Memphis, care of the New York Skin Laboratory, 206 Division Street, Dept.99, New York 2, N. Y. By return mail you will receive the doctor's directions, and both jars, packed in a safety-sealed carton. On delivery, pay two dollars plus postage. If you wish, you can save the postage fee by mailing the two dollars with your letter. Then, if you are in any way dissatisfied, your money will be cheerfully refunded. To give you an idea of how fully tested and proven the Viderm Double Treatment is, it may interest you to know that, up to this month, over two hundred and thirty-one thousand women have ordered it on my recommendation. If you could only see the thousands of happy, grateful letters that have come to me as a result, you would know the joy this simple treatment can bring. And, think of it!—the treatment *must* work for you, or it doesn't cost you a cent.

Send Secret Messages With The

LONE RANGER

SILVER BULLET BALL PEN SET

An Everlast Product

WEAR IT ON YOUR BELT—WRITE YOUR OWN SECRET CODES!

TRY IT OUT FOR 10 DAYS FREE!

HEY kids, here's your chance to get the Lone Ranger's own Silver Bullet Pen Set! *Three* smooth-writing pens—each one shaped just like the silver bullets the Lone Ranger has in his gun belt! Each pen writes a different color—BLUE, RED, GREEN—*and each one writes up to three years!* But that isn't all! Besides these three secret code pens, you get a snappy-looking genuine leather belt cartridge holster. Attach it to your belt and you always have the Lone Ranger pens ready to use, wherever you are. What's more, this leather holder is beautifully embossed with pictures of the Lone Ranger himself, Silver and Tonto! And best of all, you get all three pens, *plus* the holder, for only $1.00 on this 10-day home approval offer!

Only $1.00 Per Set

Write BLUE
Write RED when in danger
Write GREEN
HI YO
THE LONE RANGER
SILVER
TONTO

Lone Ranger's Own Pen

Danger Signal Pen

Tonto's Own Pen

Genuine Leather Holder

SEND NO MONEY

Send no money to get this official Lone Ranger Silver Bullet Ball Pen Set. Just mail coupon. When the postman brings your Lone Ranger set to your door, pay him only $1.00 plus postage and delivery. If, at the end of 10 days, you don't agree that this is the greatest bargain you've ever seen, return the pens and holder—and your money will be cheerfully refunded. But hurry! Be first in your neighborhood to get this wonderful pen set! Mail coupon—NOW.

FUN INDUSTRIES, 45 E. 17 ST., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

FUN INDUSTRIES, Dept. 507E
45 E. 17 St., New York 3, N. Y.

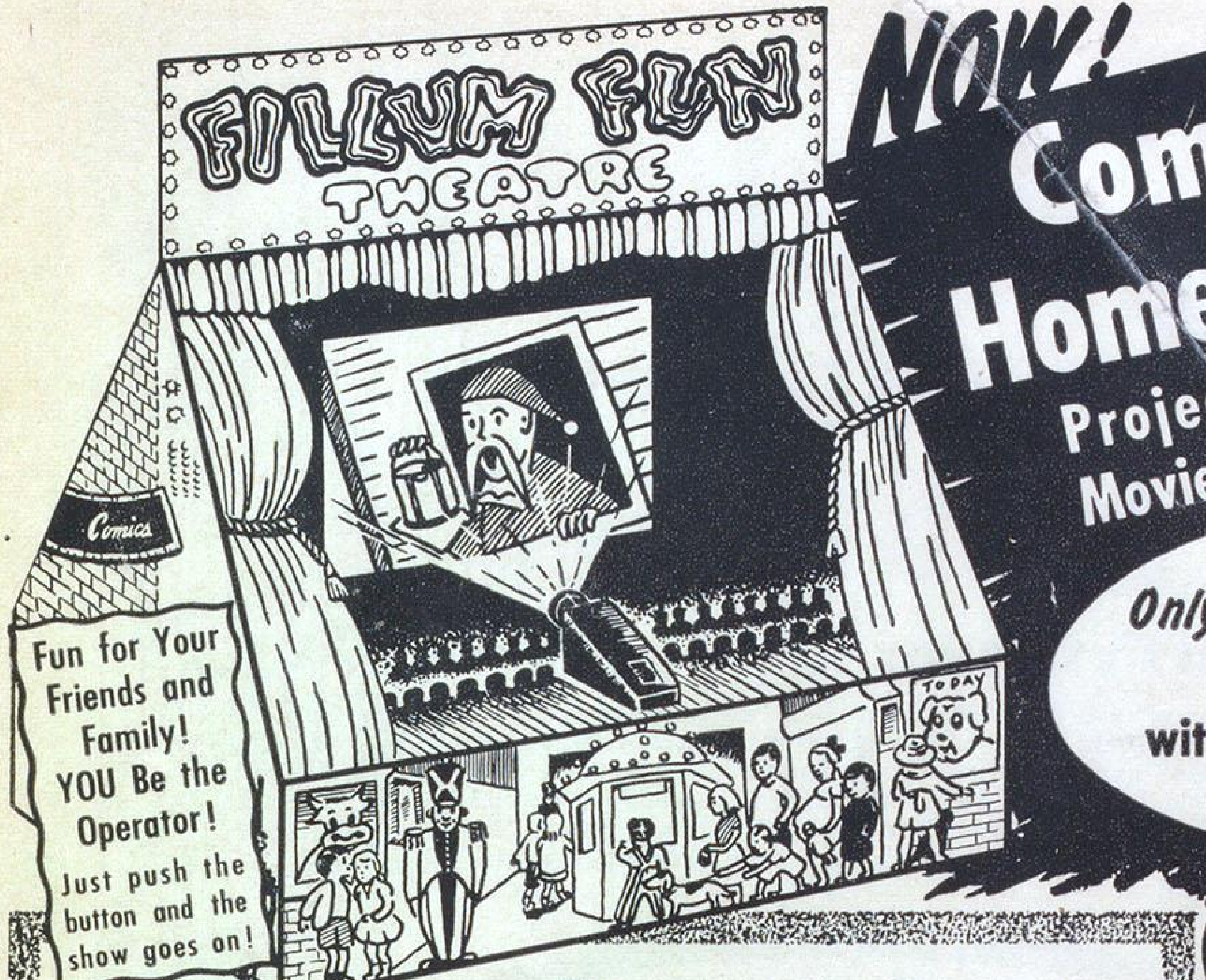
Rush me______ Lone Ranger Silver Bullet Pen Sets complete with leather holders. On arrival I will pay postman only $1.00 each plus postage and delivery. If I am not satisfied for any reason at all, I'll return them within 10 days, and you will refund my money.

Name ______________________________

Address ______________________________

City..................................Zone..........State....................

NOTE: Send cash, check, or money order with this coupon, and we pay postage. Same refund guarantee.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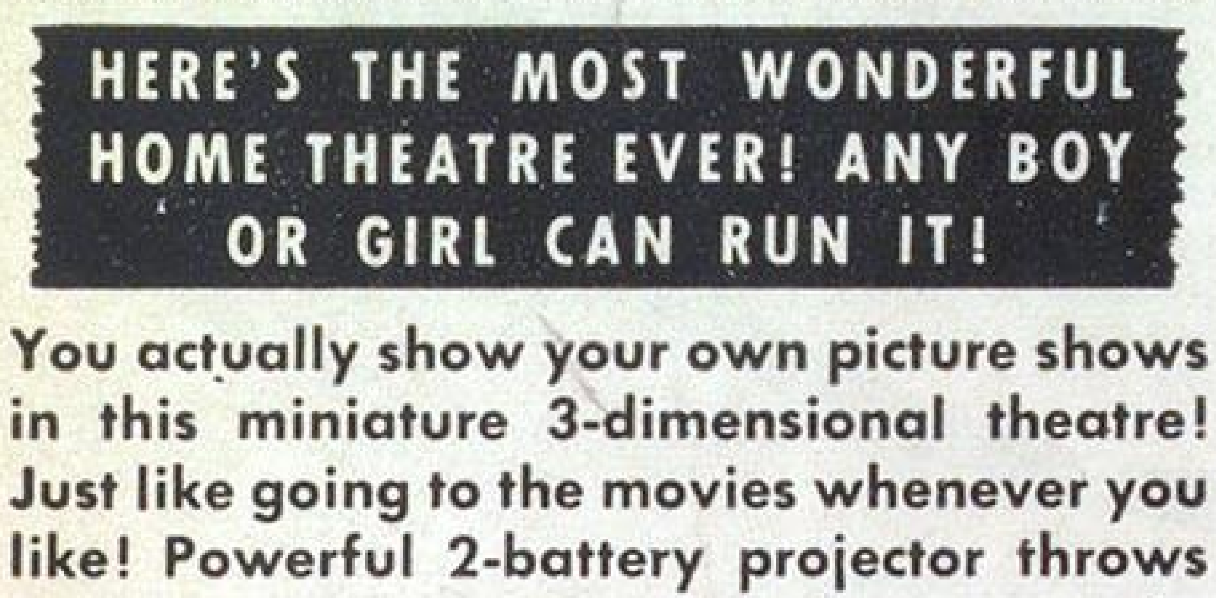
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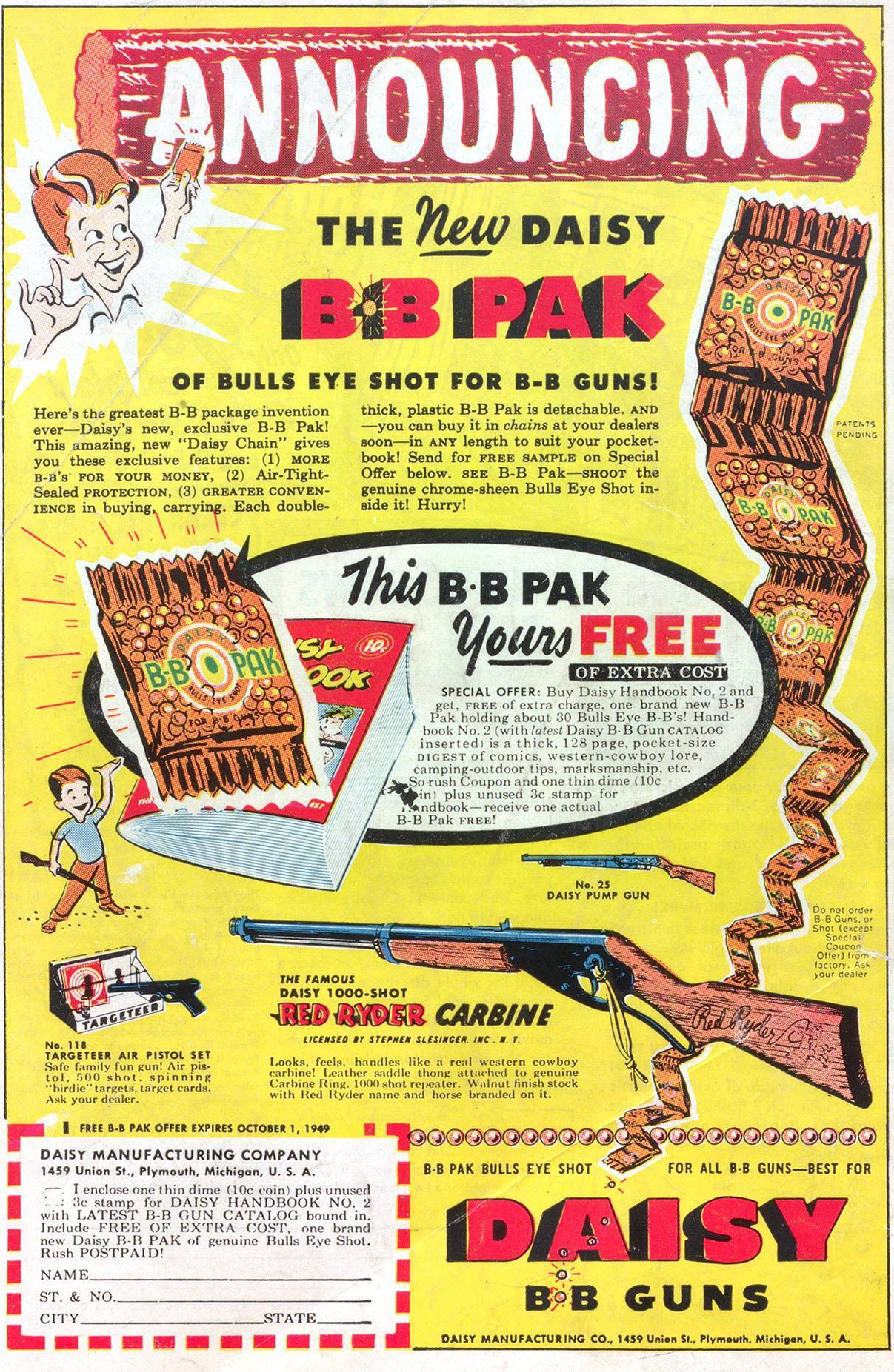

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